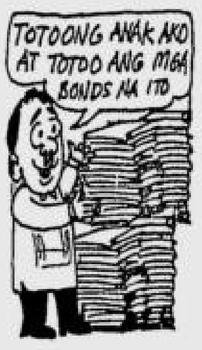
Dante Ang, Macapagal's PR man admits buying bank

Story Below, Col. 3

Another Marcos son?


TOTOONG ANAK AKO AT TOTOO ANG MGA BONDS NA ITO

By Tonette Orejas
PDI C. Luzon Desk

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—If you're a Marcos, can scads of money be far behind?

US Federal Reserve bonds—supposedly worth a trillion dollars and still being assessed if genuine or

ANOTHER/ A19

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Thursday, October 17, 2002 ★★ 60 pages / 5 sections / vol. 17 / no. 311 P15
website: www.inq7.net

GMA fires 3 top officials of MTRCB

By Marinel R. Cruz

HEADS rolled at the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board yesterday as President Macapagal-Arroyo relieved its controversial chair, Mari-len Dinglasan, and vice chair, June Keithly.

It was not known at press time why Keithly was also relieved as no charges had been filed against her.

GMA/ A19

Top Abu set to surrender

But not to General Carolina, says Sali

By Martin Marfil
and Carlito Pablo

ANYBODY but Carolina.

Abu Sayyaf leader Hamsiraji Sali confirmed yesterday that he wanted to surrender, but not to outgoing Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina.

Sali—better known as Commander Jose Ramirez, one of the bandit group's five top leaders with a P5-million bounty on his head—said he was prepared to surrender to Carolina's replacement, Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya.

In Malacañang, the President praised Abaya, saying the West Point graduate was "going to go a long way."

The President compared Abaya's situation to that of Hermogenes Ebdane before he was appointed as chief of the Philippine National Police.

"Abaya and Ebdane are two of a kind. They're very senior but very young. And they will have very long service," the President said.

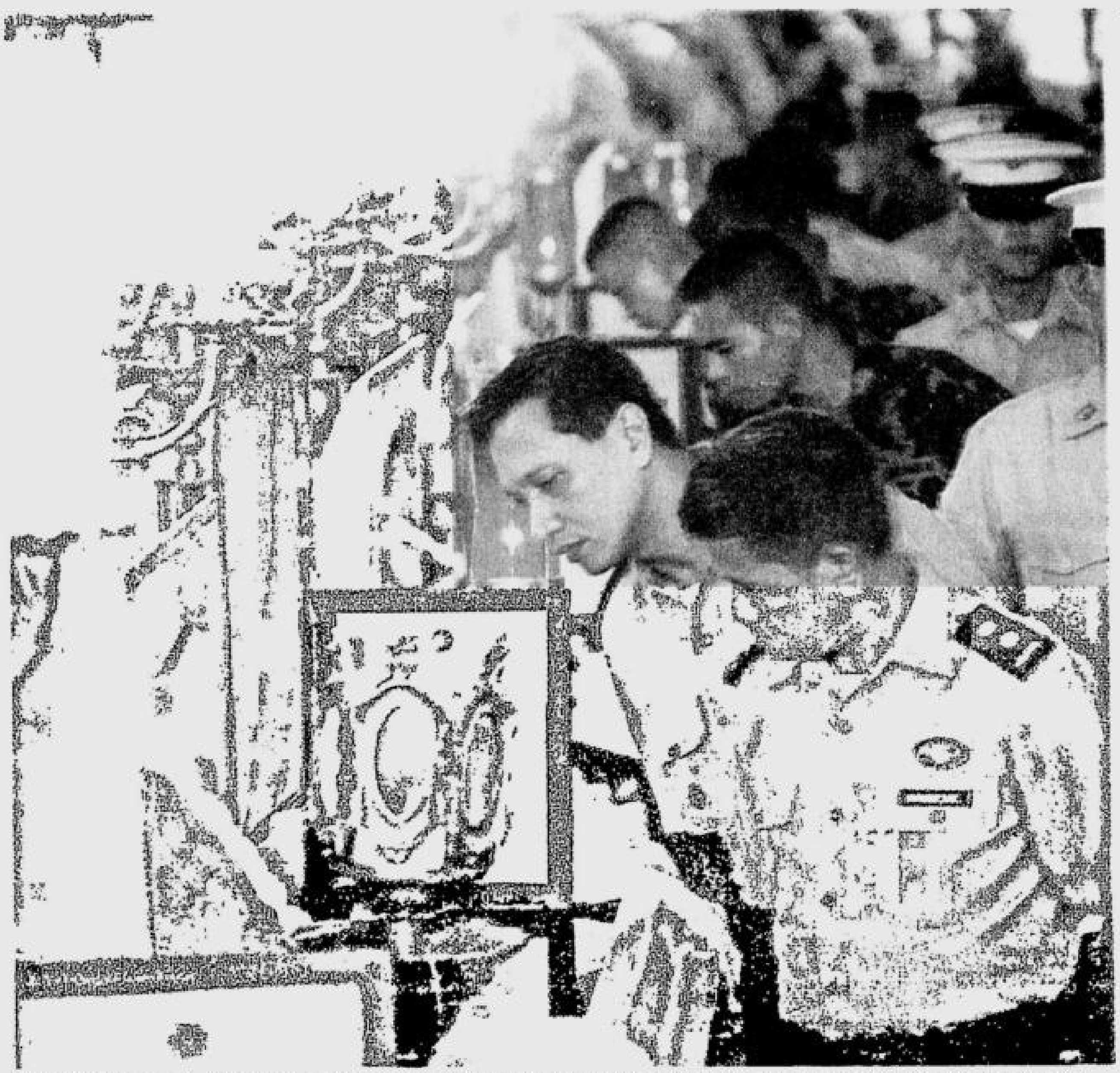
In an interview over Radio Mindanao Network, Sali said he wanted to continue talks with the military despite the botched attempt to surrender last Saturday.

"I would like to continue talks with the intelligence men but I have already told them that I don't want Carolina even if we have an agreement ... Carolina is preventing me from helping President Macapagal-Arroyo," Sali said, speaking in Filipino.

Sali said he was supposed to surface on Saturday accompanied by an intelligence team but their path was blocked upon Carolina's orders.

Sali also said he wanted to surrender so that the people of Basilan could go on with their lives. He said he was

TOP/ A20



FAREWELL to men of valor of the Philippine Marines who made the ultimate sacrifice during the battle against the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group in Patikul, Sulu, on Oct. 12. The remains of eight out of 11 Marines killed are in Fort Bonifacio.

ERIK ARAZAS

Sorry, RP not giving apology

By Norman Bordadora
and Michael Lim Ubac

MALAYSIA has not formally sought an apology regarding the case of "Angelica," and there will be no official reaction from the Philippines.

Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja yesterday said the Malaysian government had sent no official word to the Department of Foreign Affairs even after Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad reiterated Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar's statement that the Philippines had to apologize for Angelica's rape allegations against Malaysian police.

"There is no official demand and no official request. We are not ignoring it. We are just not re-

SORRY/ A18

Tiglao back to man GMA war room

By Carlito Pablo

REFRESHED and recharged by the wintry winds of Japan, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao returns to the salt mines next week.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said that aside from taking the additional job of presidential chief of staff, Tiglao will also help man the war room that she is putting up in Malacañang.

"I'm moving the (Department of National Defense) war room here," President Macapagal said during a luncheon with Palace reporters.

Tiglao, who was on a a six-month leave for a fellowship at the Kyoto University, is scheduled to be back on Oct. 23. He left in April, just days after his designation as press secretary. He was eventually replaced by Ignacio Bunye.

Bunye yesterday said he did not mind Tiglao reassuming his

TIGLAO/ A19

8 bombers in 2 vans staged attack, reports paper

JAKARTA—Indonesian officials are "intensively interrogating" a security guard and another man about the deadly nightclub bombing in Bali as details emerged of how the attack was carefully planned to maximize the death toll.

Eight bombers in two vans staged the attack which killed more than 180 people from over two dozen countries, a newspaper reported yesterday.

Citing police and intelligence sources, local daily Koran Tempo said the bombers may have used remote control devices to blow up two bars filled mostly with foreigners in Bali's busy Kuta tourist district.

Koran Tempo cited information obtained from an unnamed official of the National Intelligence Agency that seven Indonesians under the leadership of someone from the Middle East carried out the bombing. "They are all already out of Bali," the official said.

The bombing is being investigated by local police backed by officers from Australia, Britain, Germany, Japan and the US Federal Bureau of Investigation. Foreign Minister Hassan Wirayuda said there were now 40 Australian policemen, experts in blasts and forensics, cooperating with local officers.

Maj. Gen. Saleh Saaf, police spokesperson, said the security guard and another man were among at least 47 people the police had questioned about the blast. The second man was the brother of a man whose identifi-

8 BOMBERS/ A18

Dante Ang buys a bank

GMA spin doctor on shopping binge

By Clarissa S. Batino

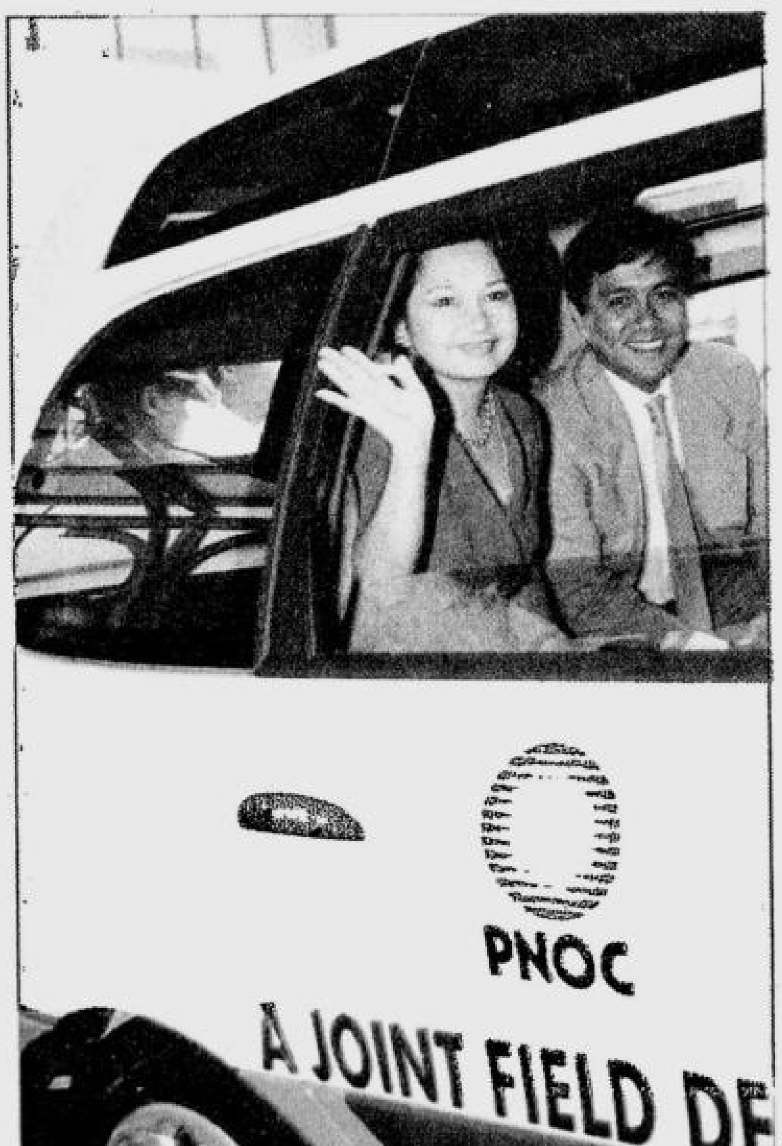
AT THE RATE he's buying businesses, the President's spin doctor may soon need to hire his own.

Two weeks after buying the rights to distribute Technogas products, Dante Ang—the President's personal publicist and Senior Presidential Consultant for Public Relations—came out in the open yesterday and admitted buying a majority stake in BankWise six months ago, together with other local investors.

Ang, who chairs the thrift bank, replaced the former majority owner last April 22. "I was elected as chair in April, a month after the Monetary Board approved the rehabilitation of the bank," Ang said. He emphasized that his influence had nothing to do with the Bangko Sentral's approval of the rehab plan.

He did not explain, however, why his entry as well as the sale of the bank's majority stake had

DANTE/ A19



MALACANANG PHOTO

NATURAL HIGH. President Macapagal and Energy Secretary Vince Perez try out the first vehicle powered by Malampaya gas. A hundred buses running on natural gas will take to the road next year as part of the government's public transport program. ***(Story on Page A2.)***

Enrile says Meralco, First Gas overcharged consumers by ₱14B

By Cynthia D. Balana

MANILA Electric Co. and its sister company First Gas have allegedly conspired to bill consumers a total of P14.7 billion for electricity that First Gas, an independent power producer (IPP) owned by the Lopez family, did not deliver from December 200 to January 2002.

Former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile disclosed the alleged overcharging yesterday before the Senate committee on public services, which is hearing Meralco's application for a consolidated franchise.

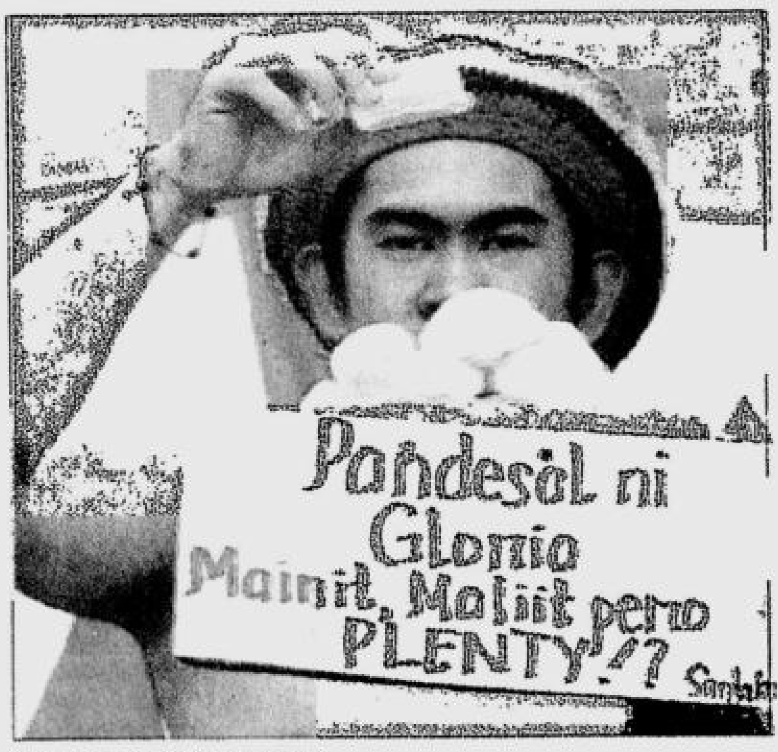
"How can we justify extending the franchise of a utility that has been unconscionably overcharging its customers in a grand scale through a variety of overpricing and overcharging schemes?" he asked.

But Meralco countered Enrile was fed misleading information.

Showing documents to the committee, Enrile said First Gas collected an average of P1 billion a month even if its 1000-megawatt Sta. Rita plant in Batangas was not operational. He said Meralco passed on the anomalous charges to its customers, resulting in the padding of the purchased power adjustment (PPA) by 56 centavos/ Kw.

These charges were contained

ENRILE/ A18



PLENTY OF NOTHING

To observe World Food Day on Wednesday, militant groups led by Sanlakas rally at the Department of Agriculture spoofing President Macapagal's take on sex and the price of *pan de sal* which she said last Saturday will stay at P1—but for three months only.

DENNIS SABANGAN

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon and Eastern Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA, PDI RESEARCH/10/17/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONTPAGE

Buses to run on cheap Malampaya gas

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday unveiled a breakthrough public transport program in which vehicles are to be powered by a low-cost, locally produced and environment-friendly fuel—compressed natural gas or CNG.

The fuel will come from the natural gas produced by the Malampaya wells off Palawan and piped to the Malampaya Deepwater Gas to Power Project plant in Batangas.

The President said she has asked the Malampaya consortium—composed of Shell Philippines Exploration B.V., ChevronTexaco and the Philippine National Oil Company—to supply CNG fuel at half the price of diesel.

Ms Macapagal said the new CNG transport program signified a "step forward" in the country's independence from imported fuels, with Malampaya now supplying 18 percent of power requirements.

She said this was a step forward in independence for the country, "not just the independence of the power sector but also the independence of the transport sector."

"The good thing about Malampaya is that the energy they're providing us is clean energy and it's a good way of thinking," the President said.

A bus company, which the President did not identify, will undertake a pilot project next year involving 100 buses that would be fully fueled by CNG.

She said the Land Transportation and Fare Regulatory Board would be granted three franchises for the natural gas fleet, two for the Manila-Batangas route and one for the Batangas-Bicol route.

In a speech at the PNOC compound in Makati marking the first year anniversary of the Batangas natural gas plant, Ms Macapagal pointed to reporters a diesel-powered Isuzu Highlander that the Department of Energy had converted into a CNG unit.

"That's the first natural gas vehicle in the country," she said.

She said three other vehicles—two shuttle buses and a Nissan Patrol service vehicle—had also been converted and an "Enviro 2002" taxi unit developed.

"This is Filipino resourcefulness at its best," the President said.

"We want to have all these on the ground, on the street, on the road so that we can be less dependent on oil but also more in keeping with clean sources of energy."

The DOE, which will be spearheading the CNG program, has worked out the regulatory framework for the natural gas policy.

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Gloria to push nat'l ID system

TWO days after the National Security Council revived the controversial plan for a national identification system, the President said yesterday she will push it—because, she said, 80 percent of the people approve.

"Four to one, people want a national ID card," President Macapagal Arroyo told reporters.

The opposition from Congress continued to mount, however, with Senate majority leader Loren Legarda Leviste warning about police-state tactics and Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. calling on the government to justify the need for people to wear "dogtags."

But Senate defense committee chair Sen. Ramon Magsaysay said he saw nothing wrong with the [illegible], and Deputy Speaker Gerry Salapudoin said a national ID would make criminals "think twice" before committing a crime.

The President said the people want a national ID because they are "tired of the use of democratic space to promote anarchy, destabilization and a government's downfall."

Ms Macapagal said she got the figure from a survey conducted by the Public Information Agency, a bureau under the Office of the Press Secretary. She did not provide details, however, such as when the survey was made or how many respondents were polled.

"I'm not saying it's the best tool" to combat terrorism, the President conceded. But she quickly added: "It's a proposal and it is a good proposal."

No money

She said Malacañang could either wait for Congress to pass a law or issue an executive order.

But the government has no money to fund a national ID system, Negros Occ. Rep. Jun Lozada claimed yesterday.

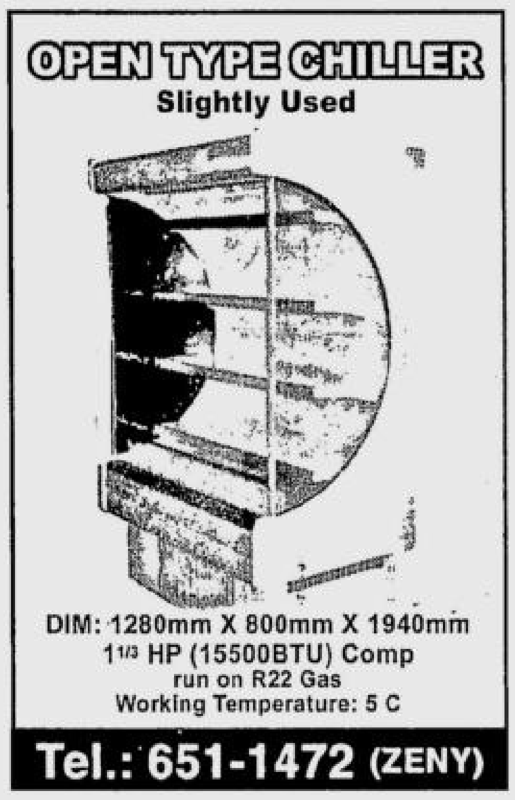
Such a system could cost at least P1.4 billion, Lozada said. "We have a huge budget deficit," he noted.

'Impossible'

Locsin asked the government to specify who will issue the IDs and who will manufacture and distribute them.

Bukidnon Rep. Jose Miguel Zubiri said it was "impossible" to make a "super national ID card because of the difficulty of compressing the information found in such IDs as a driver's license, SSS or GSIS card, Philhealth card, Voter's ID, BIR ID and Pag-ibig card.

In the Senate, Magsaysay compared the national ID to student IDs which schools require.



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8th Annual Convention
October 18-19, 2002
Edsa Shangri-la Hotel, Mandaluyong City
Theme: Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Today: Practices, Guidelines & Controversies

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:
Greetings!

The Philippine Society of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, one of the leading subspecialty societies recognized by the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society will have its 8th Annual Convention on October 18-19, 2002.

We invite all active members of the Society and members of the allied proefession to join us in this 2-day scientific course on current information in reproductive endocrinology and infertility.

We assure you that this course will not only enhance the participants knowledge but will also be a venue towards linking hands in friendship and warm camaraderie.

LILIA P. LUNA, MD
President, PSREI

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT:
Dear Colleagues:

Greetings from PSREI! The organizing committee has prepared a good and highly relevant scientific program for this 8th annual convention with the theme. Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Today: Practices, Guidelines, and Controversies.

We are confident that you will enjoy the discussion and exchange of ideas among our reproductive specialists and that you will learn more updates that will be of benefit to your patients.

To our PSREI members, we are enjoining you to attend our fellowship night on October 18, 2002 6:00pm EDSA Shangri-La Hotel.

See you all there.

BLANCA C. DE GUIA, MD
Vice President, PSREI
Chair, Annual Convention

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PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

7:30 - 8:30 Registration
8:00 - 8:30 Opening Ceremony
Entrance of Colors
National Anthem
-Ma. Cecille V. Cunanan, MD
Invocation
-Melissa F. Diawatan, MD
Formal Opening of the Annual Convention- Lilia P. Luna, MD *President*
Welcome Remarks
-Blanca C. De Guia, MD
Vice President
Ribbon Cutting and Opening of Exhibits
SESSION I
Moderator: Eileen Co-Sy, MD
8:30 - 8:50 Evaluation of the Pelvis in Infertility - Laparoscopy, Transvaginal Hydrolaparoscopy etc.
Pacita P. Lazaro, MD
8:50 - 9:10 3D Ultrasound and Infertility
Lyra Ruth Clemente-Chua, MD
9:10 - 9:30 Tubal Infertility, Claim and Reality
Gilda G. Martinez, MD
9:30 - 9:50 Adenomyosis: Clinical Relevance?
Carmencita B. Tongco, MD
9:50 - 10:10 Coffee Break
10:10-10:30 Open Forum
SESSION II
Moderator: Victoria Rowena R. Sese, MD
10.30 - 10:50 Evidence-Based Reproductive Surgery
Delfin A. Tan, MD
10:50 - 11:30 Debate: (20 minutes each)
"Resolved that small intramural myomas (less than 4 cm) should be removed in infertile patients"
Rosalie N. Macali, MD - 10:50 -11:10am
Joan Tan Garcia, MD - 11:10 - 11:30am
11:30 - 11:50 Open Forum
12:00 - 1:00 Business Meeting
Lunch Symposium - Drug Protocols in Infertility
Dr. Selva Suparmaniam
PM
SESSION III
Moderator: Jean Marie C. Salvador, MD
1:00 - 1:20 New Drug Developments in Endometriosis
Florante P. Gonzaga, MD
1:20 - 1:40 Ovulation Induction in Patients with Endometriosis
Ma. Concepcion I. Orela, MD
1:40 - 2:00 Endometriosis: What is the Recommended Surgery for Infertility and Pain.
Blanca C. De Guia, MD
2:00 - 2:20 Coffee Break / Open forum
SESSION IV
Moderator: Sonia E. Desquitado, MD
2:20 - 3:20 Evidence-Based Session:
"What is your Best Treatment?"
1. 16 yr. old with profuse and prolonged menses
2. 40 yr. old obese, amenorrheic, infertile with polycystic ovaries
3. 56 yr. old with previously excised fibrocystic mass and family history of breast Ca desirous of treatment for hot flushes
Panelists: *Santiao A. Del Rosario, MD*
Milagros A. Chan, MD
Resource Person: Maria Antonia E. Habana, MD, M.Sc.
3:20 - 3:40 New Approach to IVF Failure
Selva Suparmaniam, MD
3:40 - 4:00 Open Forum
4:00 - 6:00 INTERESTING CASE/RESEARCH PRESENTATION
6:00 FELLOWSHIP NIGHT INDUCTION OF NEW FELLOWS
DAY 2
SESSION V
Moderator: Noel E. Raymundo, MD
AM
8:30 - 8:50 Ovarian Reserve and Ovulation Induction in the Elderly
Ma. Virginia S. Abalos, MD
8:50 - 9:10 What to do with Premature Ovarian Failure
Lilia P. Luna, MD
9:10 - 9:30 GnRH Antagonist in IVF
Greg B. Pastorfide, MD
9:30 - 9:50 IVF. Widening the Window of Success
Louis Ajonuma, MD
9:50 - 10:05 Coffee Break
10.05 - 10:30 Open Forum
SESSION VI
Moderator: Danny Milla, MD
10:30 - 10:50 Practical Evaluation of the Infertile Male (What Can Be Done) *Virgilio M. Novero, MD*
10:50 - 11:10 Artifical Insemination: Which Timing and What Techniques
Rogelio P. Mendiola, MD
11:10 - 11:30 Immunologic Infertility and Recurrent Pregnancy Loss: A Simplified Approach
Alejandro Ortigas, MD
11:30 - 11:50 Open Forum
11:50 - 1.00 Lunch
PM
ESSION VII
Moderator: Lourdes M. Liwag, MD
1:00 - 1:20 ART for Women Above 40 Desiring Fertility (Ovarian Cryopreservation / Xenografting /Transplantation)
Angela S. Aguilar, MD
1:20 - 1:40 Reproductive Cloning
Grace P. Serrano, MD
1:40 - 2:00 Oral Contraceptive Pills and Risk of Breast and Cardiovascular Disease
Enrico Gil C. Oblepias, MD
2:00 - 2:20 Preventing Osteoporosis for a Better Quality of Life
Eileen M. Manalo, MD
2:20 - 2:40 Open Forum
2:40 - 3.00 Coffee Break
SESSION VIII
Moderator: Maria Antonia E. Habana, MD, M.Sc
3.00 - 3:30 Video Session
Pelvic Side Wall Dissection (Teaching video)
-Blanca C. De Guia, MD
Diagnostic Vaginoscopy
- Socorro Bernardino, MD
Intra Uterine Masses as Causes of Infertility
- Regta L. Pichay, MD
3:30 - 4:30 Panel Discussion
"How will you manage?"
1. 20 yr. old single with bilateral 1cm endometrioma, asymptomatic
2. 35 yr. old married with unilateral hydrosalphinx
3. 30 yr. old married with bilateral proximal tubal obstruction
Lilia P. Luna, MD
Florante P. Gonzaga, MD
Delfin A. Tan, MD
4:30 - 5:00 Open Forum

8:00am - 12:00nn ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 2003

Solons OK 'better' absentee voting bill

By Juliet L. Javellana

ITS authors proudly declared it to be "infinitely better" than the Senate version passed earlier as they approved last night House Bill 3570, or the absentee voting bill.

"We have produced an intelligent version as opposed to that of the Senate which was done without much thinking," said Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr., hours before the House approved the bill viva voce.

Locsin said the House version provided better safeguards by requiring that voting be done personally at Philippine embassies or consulates abroad.

Voting by mail

The Senate version allows a qualified overseas Filipino to register and send his or her ballot by mail.

Locsin said the House bill "completely reproduces the electoral system" in the country.

Zamboanga City Rep. Celso Lobregat criticized the Senate measure for "bending over too much" for the overseas Filipinos, citing the 30-day period allowed for them to cast their vote.

Lobregat said the chances of fraud would be great when the ballot boxes are left for a month in the Philippine consulates and embassies.

Locsin called on his colleagues to balance the right to vote of Filipinos who are in the country and those who are abroad.

He said that if the overseas Filipino workers contribute $4 billion to $5 billion to the economy every year, their domestic counterparts produce $73 billion every year.

Congressmen have made much of Sen. Joker Arroyo's criticism that the Senate absentee voting bill was a catastrophe waiting to happen.

Arroyo was the only senator to have voted against the bill.

Locsin told his colleagues that Arroyo was pinning his hopes on the House to produce a better version.

Arroyo had described the two versions as "worlds apart."

The Senate seeks to enfranchise Filipino immigrants abroad, estimated at 3 million, while the House bill will only give the vote only to those overseas Filipinos who have not renounced their Filipino citizenship.

In the House version, absentee voting would apply only to the election of the president and the vice president while the Senate version also includes the senatorial elections.

House legislators agreed that the absentee voting exercise in 2004 would be an experiment. Thus, their version has a "sunset provision" which provides that the Absentee Voting Act would be effective for the first national elections in 2004 only.

For it to continue to be implemented in subsequent elections, Congress must pass an enabling law, upon the recommendation of the congressional oversight committee, according to House Bill 3570.

Its many authors will hardly recognize HB 3570, which consolidated 19 bills.

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RP to sue Seoul club owner for forcing Pinays to flesh trade

SEOUL—The Philippine government is to file a lawsuit against a nightclub owner convicted of forcing Filipinas into prostitution, the country's embassy said here Wednesday.

South Korea police arrested the club manager and freed the Filipinas from the nightclub near Seoul in June. However, the man got off with a 10-month suspended jail term.

"We thought that the women should be compensated for the suffering that they endured," said Reydeluz Conferido, labor attache at the Philippine embassy. He said the suit would seek damages of 20 million won ($16,000) for each of the women.

Eleven Filipinas who entered the country this year with visas permitting them to work in the entertainment industry were working at the club.

Nine of them were forced to work as prostitutes and lived as captives of the club management, he said.

They were given less than $10 a week for food and their wages were withheld. They were locked in a room after working hours and unable to leave the club freely. *AFP*

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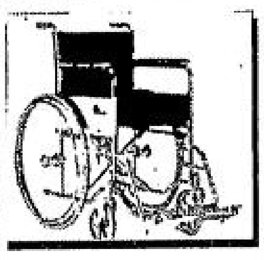

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Plane hits power cables

A 60-SEAT passenger plane hit power lines as it was landing in Samar yesterday, toppling poles and injuring two villagers, officials said.

The Asian Spirit YS-11 aircraft, with an undetermined number of passengers on board, landed safely at Catarman airport after one of its landing gears snagged high-tension cables near the runway, air transport chief Adelberto Yap said.

Yap said there was apparently no mechanical problem with the aging plane. It was landing after a 1 1/2 hour journey from Manila, and was piloted by Capt. Romulo Villanueva.

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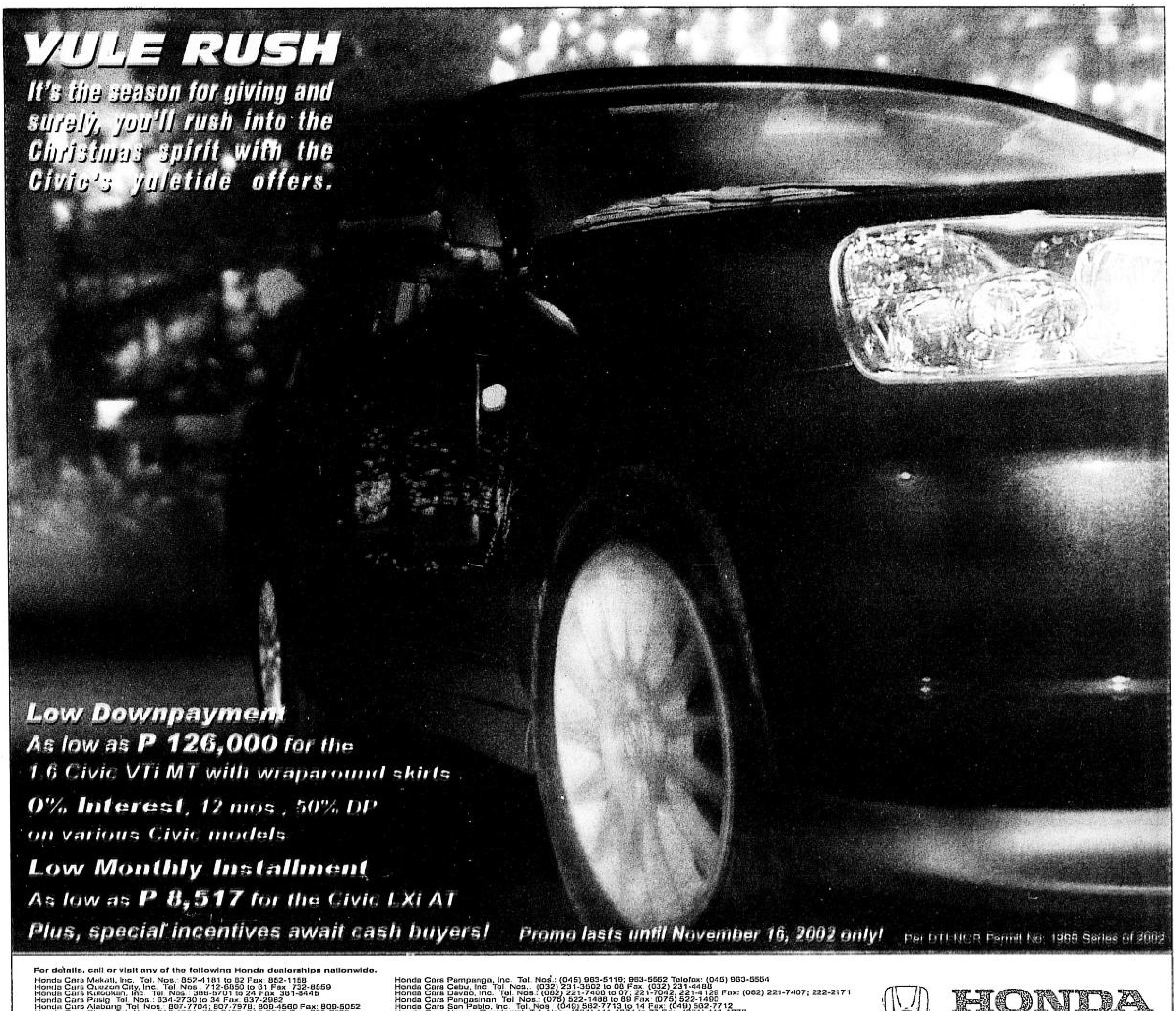
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HONDA

Azcuna has inside track in 5-man final race to SC

By Michael Lim Ubac

IT SEEMS that President Macapagal-Arroyo will finally get her wish to have her own personal choice, Adolf Azcuna, sit in the country's highest court.

Azcuna's prospects of securing the lone vacant seat in the 15-member bench were vastly improved yesterday after the Judicial and Bar Council included him in the final shortlist of nominees for the position vacated on Aug. 12 by Associate Justice Santiago Kapunan.

The shortlist containing five names was sent to the President yesterday, said Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, the JBC's ex-oficio chair.

The list also included the Court of Appeals' acting presiding justice, Cancio Garcia (nine votes), CA Associate Justice Delilah Magtolis (eight votes) and SC court administrator Presbitero Velasco (seven votes). Azcuna obtained 10 votes.

Four other aspirants for the SC post failed to make it.

They were private lawyer Eduardo Inlayo, Court of Appeals Associate Justice Eugenio Labitoria, Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Gregory Ong and Presidential Anti-Graft Commission chair Dario Rama.

With Azcuna's name in the shortlist, the decision now rests solely with the President, who had reportedly promised former President Aquino that she would appoint Azcuna.

Azcuna was Ms Aquino's presidential legal counsel and spokesperson.

Ms Macapagal had twice publicly expressed her preference for Azcuna who failed to make it to the JBC shortlist when the President made her choices for two SC vacancies last August.

As expected, the JBC adopted the shortlist submitted last Tuesday by the SC which decided to recommend Adolfo Azcuna for the position vacated by Kapunan.

In the JBC, Azcuna got the approval of only six of the seven JBC members who participated in the secret voting of nominees yesterday.

Garcia, Magtolis and Velasco all obtained seven votes. The fifth slot in shortlist went to CA Associate Justice Ruben Reyes.

But an SC official who asked not to be named said the number of votes obtained by the nominees did not really matter. The main thing is to be on the JBC list.

Perez said it was the JBC vote that counted.

A high court official earlier predicted that the SC vote would seal the fate of Azcuna as the JBC usually took its cue from the SC when making up the shortlist that is submitted to the President.

"From three votes last month, he (Azcuna) got 10 votes this time. The difference is just too wide to be ignored by the JBC and the President," the official said.

Under the law, the President can choose only from the names submitted by the JBC. She is free to reject the shortlist, but is barred from asking the JBC to modify it.

IBP backs Marcelo as Ombudsman

THE INTEGRATED Bar of the Philippines has come out in support of the recent appointment of Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo as the next Ombudsman.

Marcelo was formerly national director of the IBP legal aid program and executive editor of the IBP Journal. His appointment was backed by the IBP Board of Governors.

In a press statement, the IBP said Marcelo would bring to the office the competence, integrity and independence necessary to discharge the duties of the Ombudsman.

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PEA execs accused of holding info on P281-M road overprice

By Rocky Nazareno

OFFICIALS of the Public Estates Authority (PEA) deliberately withheld information on a P281-million supplemental work to the allegedly overpriced President Diosdado Macapagal Avenue (PDMA).

This was revealed by opposition Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta who charged that PEA officials "hid a much bigger project cost that jacked up the original contract price from P584.36 million to P1.1 billion or by 91 percent."

Oreta cited PEA board resolution No. 3197 issued last March which approved the construction of the one-kilometer Bay Boulevard which extends from Roxas Blvd. to the area already occupied by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) building and Manila Film Center.

The supplemental work would involve the widening of an existing two-lane road near the Buendia extension part of the PDMA.

Oreta noted that the P281.7 million "is even higher than the P252.9-million in additional work and other extra expenses earlier uncovered by the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee."

"While the additional works include various costs such as the construction of an inland bridge and a seaside extension road, this P281.7-million project only involves road widening that could escalate the contract price of the PDMA project by 91 percent," she said.

As such, Oreta said PEA is already in violation of Presidential Decree 1596 which provides that additional costs to the original contract price exceeding 25 percent should first be approved by Malacañang.

No bidding?

"We would want to know if there was a violation, or else, if (the Bay Boulevard project) is an entirely different project, was it bidded out?" Oreta said.

The Blue Ribbon committee resumes its investigation into the alleged overpricing of PDMA Thursday with committee chair Joker Arroyo summoning both the "old" and "new" PEA board to the hearing.

Oreta said this apparently explains why the PEA board had set aside a total of P1.3 billion for the PDMA out of a P1-billion loan from the GSIS and a P300-million credit facility from the Land Bank of the Philippines.

"In the previous hearing, the PEA officials could only account for P837.3 million for the project. This P281-million Bay Boulevard additional cost explains why they had to borrow P1.1 billion," she said.

Citing PEA documents, Oreta said that on top of the P252.9-million additional costs for supplemental work, another P281.7 million was also approved by the present PEA board to complete the PDMA, which is "turning out to be the most expensive five-kilometer, eight-lane asphalt road in our history."

"This means that the original price of P584.36 million has escalated to P1.118 billion or an increase of P534.6 million, which is almost double the cost," Oreta said.

PEA director Sulficio Tagud Jr. had earlier exposed that the project was overpriced by P600 million.

"So I think what Mr. Tagud has been saying is true," Oreta said.

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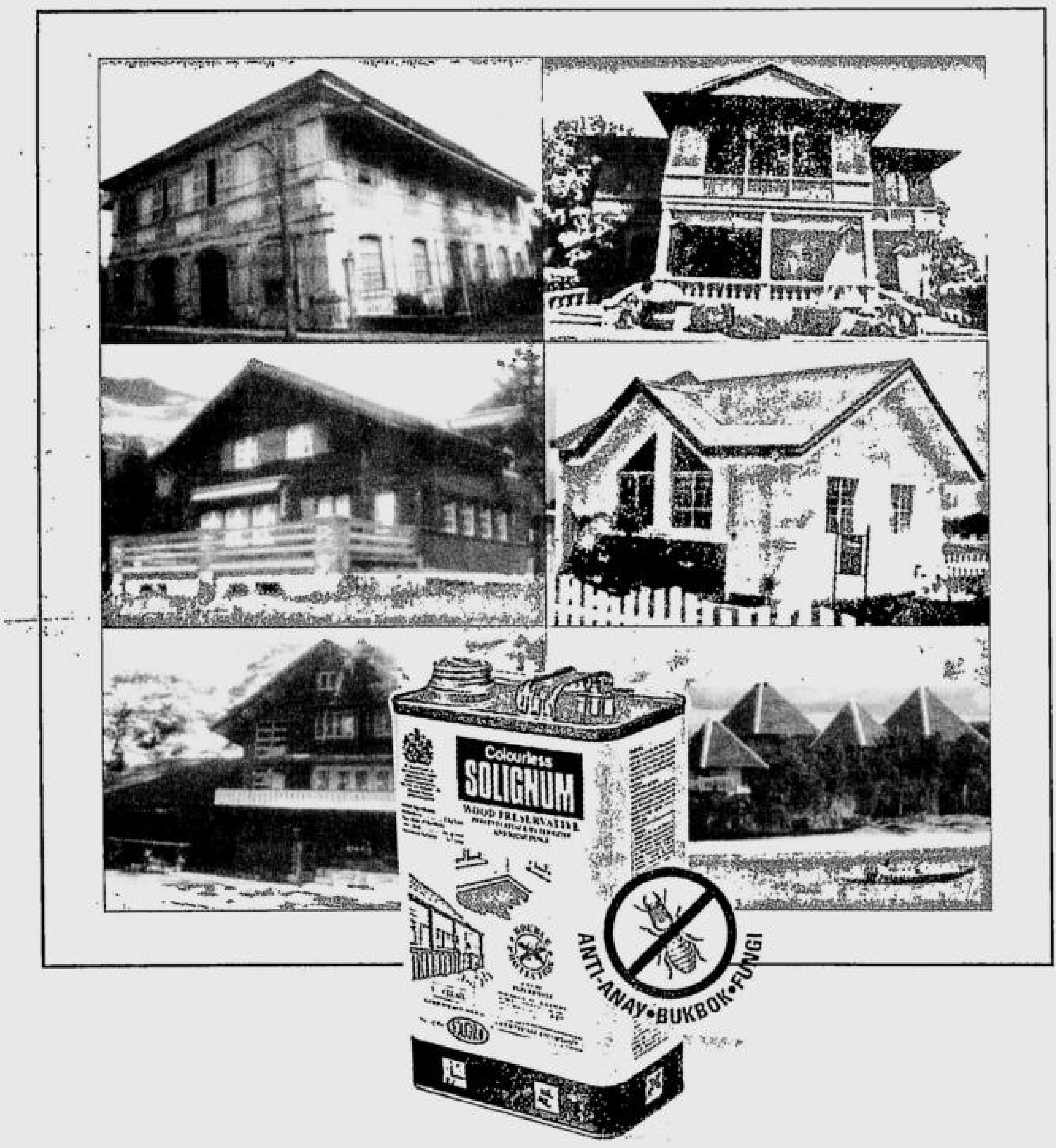

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Bar owners claim RP soldiers pimping for GIs

ANGELES CITY—Bar owners on Fields Avenue, the city's main red light district, are accusing some Philippine Air Force men of "moonlighting" as pimps for visiting American soldiers.

"They get women from only a few clubs, and we are excluded," a bar manager complained to reporters on Tuesday night.

Media men were doing the rounds of night spots on the strip to observe the implementation of a policy prohibiting some 800 American troops from leaving the nearby Clark Special Economic Zone where they are based for the ongoing "Talon Vision" war games.

The security measure had been taken as a safeguard against attacks by terrorist or communist groups.

This meant that Fields Avenue would not be the GIs' rest and recreation (R&R) center for the first time since 1999, when bilateral war games resumed under the Visiting Forces Agreement between the Philippines and the United States.

Instead, commercial sex workers were reportedly being brought into Clark for nightly rendezvous with the US soldiers, Fields Avenue sources said.

"Excluded" bar managers lamented being unable to make the most of the two-week exercise.

Women who told the media that they had "dates" with American servicemen, were seen having a difficult time entering the gates to Clark's housing areas. Unsmiling security guards demanded to see the white accreditation cards issued by social hygiene clinics.

Inside Clark, the INQUIRER spotted several other women aboard vans headed for the servicemen's housing units.

Maj. Allan Ballesteros, public information chief of the 600th Air Base Wing, host unit of PAF divisions in Clark, strongly denied yesterday the allegations that air force men were recruiting women for their American counterparts.

"Our job is to participate in the exercise and provide additional security," Ballesteros said. "We don't meddle in their leisure activities."

In fact, he said, it was to an American man that a "contract" to provide "morale activities" had been awarded by the US Marine Corps.

The League of Angeles City Entertainers and Managers could not be reached for comment. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Court of Appeals orders Customs exec reinstated

THE COURT of Appeals has ordered the Office of the Ombudsman and the Bureau of Customs to reinstate Customs director Virgilio M. Danao, who was earlier ordered dismissed from the service on charges of dishonesty.

The resolution dated Sept. 26 was penned by the court's Special 11th Division Associate Justice Mercedes Gozo-Dadole and concurred in by Associate Justices Amelita G. Tolentino and Sergio L. Pestano.

Bureau insiders claim big-time smuggling syndicates were behind the removal of Danao, a career executive.

Danao has been in government for the past 42 years and will retire from the service on Oct. 27, 2004.

The same day of the promulgation of the resolution, Danao's lawyer, Dante O. Tinga, wrote Customs Commissioner Antonio M. Bernardo, asking that the bureau comply with the court order and reinstall his client. The TRO is good for 60 days.

The case stemmed from the Ombudsman's decision implementing Danao's dismissal from the service on the initiative of Rojas, private respondent, in the above-mentioned administrative case.

On Sept. 20, 2002, Tinga also wrote Bernardo to remind the Customs chief that during the pendency of Danao's petition for a review of his dismissal, the appeals court was not mandated to implement the dismissal order.

Danao was charged with dishonesty for having allegedly made false entries in his personal data sheets. But he maintained that the questioned documents did not come from him.

The Ombudsman sent the questioned documents along with sample documents containing Danao's genuine thumbmarks and signatures to the National Bureau of Investigation for examination.

The NBI filed a report which tend to show that Danao was not the one who filled out the sheet.

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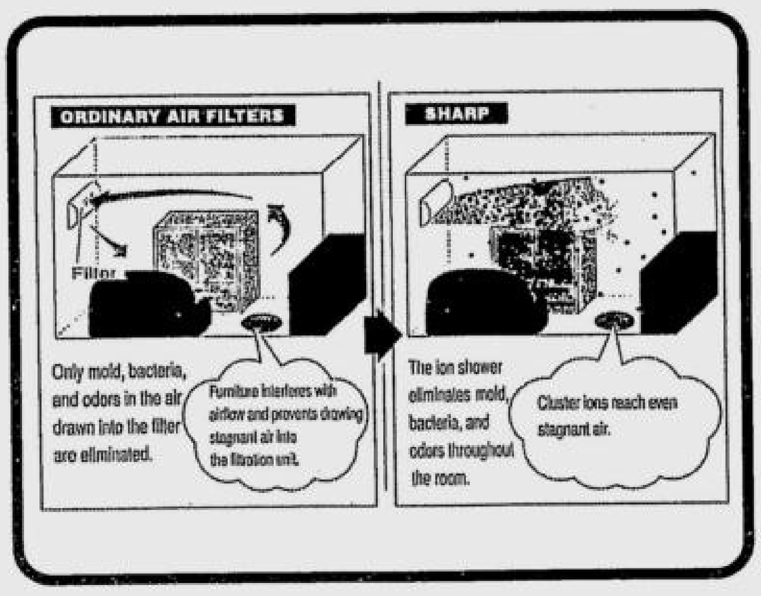
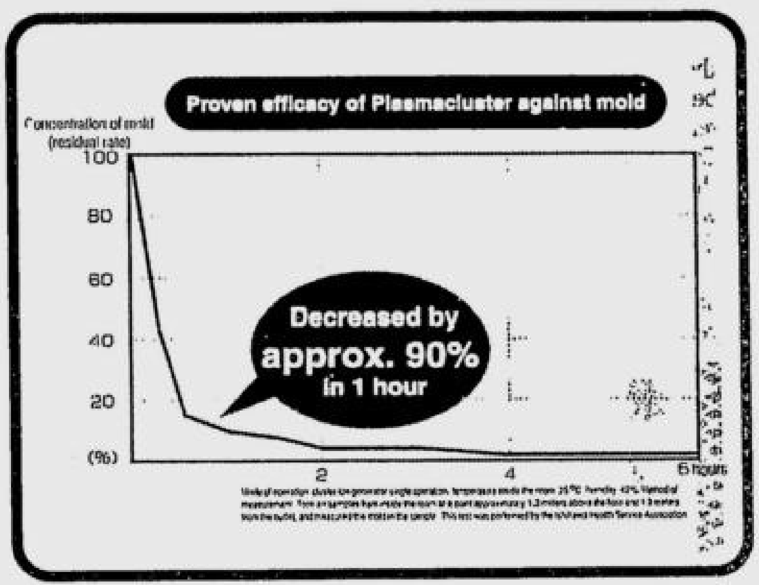
But in this age when there's hardly nature in the city, it's good to know that there are products we can use to help us breathe clean, healthy air.

Sharp's Plasmacluster air con, for example.

CLEAN THE AIR INDOORS!


ORDINARY AIR FILTERS
Filter
Only mold, bacteria, and odors in the air drawn into the filter are eliminated.
Furniture interferes with airflow and prevents drawing stagnant air into the filtration unit.
SHARP
The ion shower eliminates mold, bacteria, and odors throughout the room.
Cluster ions reach even stagnant air.



It's the only air con in the Philippines that's equipped with a state-of-the-art air purifying system, eliminating 90 % of household dirt, mold, bacteria, odors, viruses and other indoor pollutants in just an hour of operation.

The Plasmacluster air con works exactly like nature in cleaning the air, with its cluster ion generating system. Capable of releasing 40 - 50 thousand cluster ions per cubic centimeter (at least 4,000 ions per cubic centimeter are needed to purify the air), negative and positive ions collide to produce hydroxyl radicals which get rid of odors, toxic gases and any infectious micro-organisms floating in the air.

And once it's clean indoors, Sharp Plasmacluster air con sprays negative ions, freshening the air.

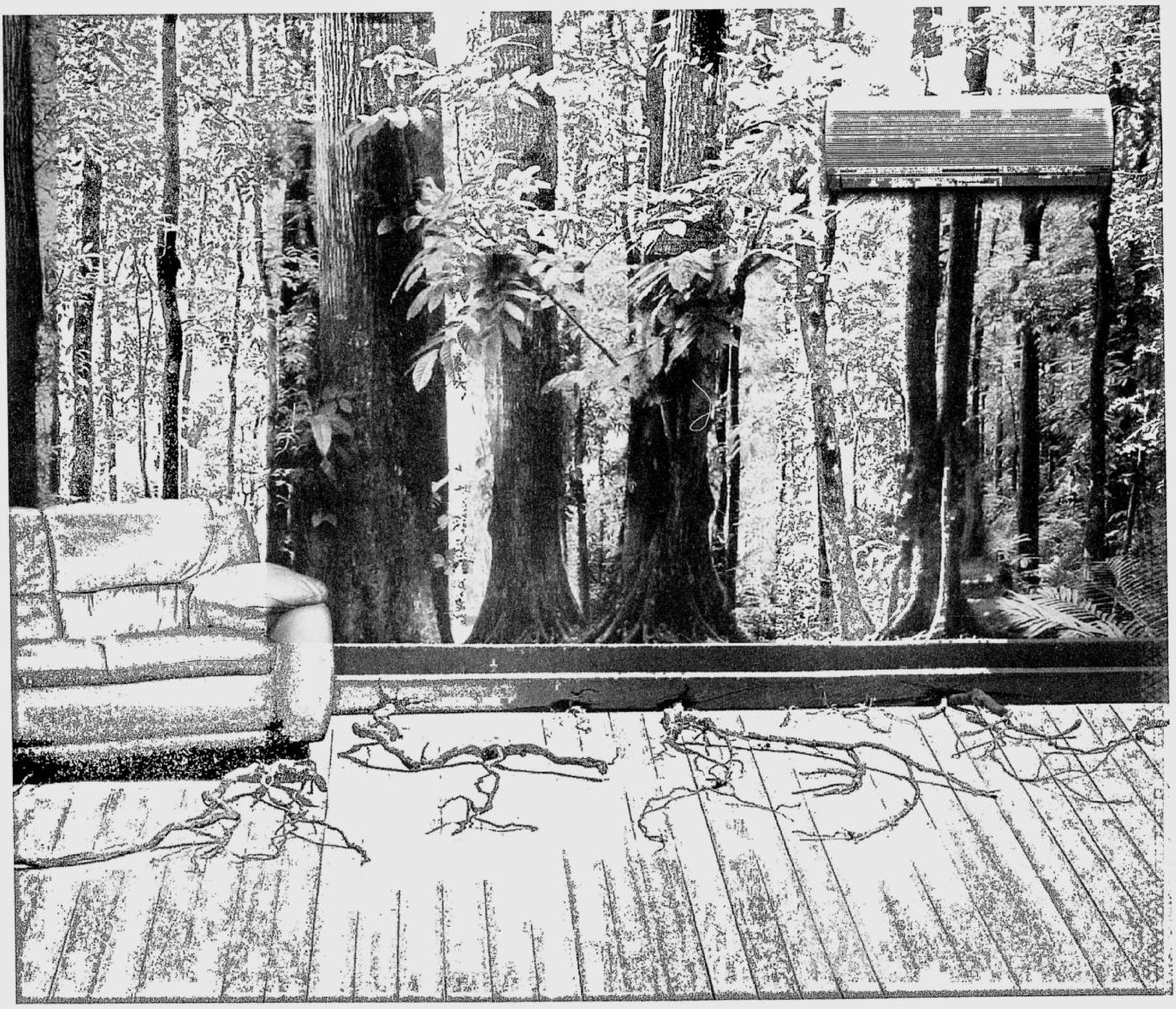
HERE'S SCIENTIFIC PROOF

Research in the U.S., Japan, China and Germany confirm that the Plasmacluster air con is effective in eliminating indoor pollutants such as bacteria, mold and other viruses.

Moreover, an experiment of the Japanese Health Service documents that the amount of bacteria dispersed in a room decreases by 90% after an hour the Plasmacluster air con has been turned on.

So if you want to remove pet odors; get rid of mold inside closets and in your kitchen; eliminate undesirable odors coming from pets, garbage or the toilet; and zap cigarette smoke, it may be well to consider the Plasmacluster air con.

After all, pollution is not just at the doorstep; it is right under your nose.



Must be the healthy, clean air from the Plasmacluster air con.

SHARP
be sharp

AH-AP09CF/AH-AP12CF

- Available in 1 and 1.5 Hp
- LCD wireless remote control
- 1 hour Off timer
- Auto restart function
- Auto swing louver (horizontal)
- Plasmacluster Ion control
- 12-hour On/Off timer
- Automatic operation mode
- Innovative LED display monitor (Magic Display)
- Less energy consumption

Kills 90% of mold, bacteria and viruses after one hour of use.

Ion Plasmacluster

Eugenia D. Apostol
Founding Chairman

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OPINION

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Preemptive mode

EDITORIAL

WITH THE BOMB attack that devastated beautiful Bali and shook the rest of the world, Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri is under pressure to make drastic moves, foremost among which is the arrest of Abu Bakar Bashir, the supposed spiritual leader of Jemaah Islamiyah. Authorities have heretofore balked at taking the elderly cleric in custody on the grounds that there is and has been no evidence to link him to terrorist acts. But Megawati, rendered extremely vulnerable by the horrific body count, ought to be now feeling the heat with US President George W. Bush announcing that he intended to speak with her regarding the need for urgent action. "I hope to hear the resolve of a leader who recognizes that any time terrorists take hold in a country, it's going to weaken the country itself," he said.

It would not be difficult for the attentive observer to read the lips of the man who has taken on the posture of emperor of the world. Bush expects the president of the most populous Muslim nation on the planet to go on preemptive mode—that is to say, to act on mere suspicion and despite absence of evidence proving that such an act is necessary. He also expects her to unsettle the young democracy by vesting its military with powers that led to untold rights abuse once upon a time in its tumultuous past. In short, to succumb to the mode of the sole superpower on earth, the same mode that it demands of the rest of humanity to adopt—and that is galvanizing Bush's planned war on Iraq.

The United Nations Security Council has condemned the bomb attack on Bali as an "act of international terrorism." But it is uncertain whether the US government under Bush employs the same language in fighting a scourge that threatens us all, whether in Bali, New York, Basilan, or elsewhere. It includes in its definition of "terrorist" everyone that it deems fit (with evidence or without), rides shotgun over sovereign states (but then President Macapagal-Arroyo welcomes it), and indeed, it has thumbed its nose at the UN and boldly threatened to go it alone in using military force against Iraq should the world body refuse to dance in rhythm with its war drums (an act of racism, as has been pointed out, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan being a person of color).

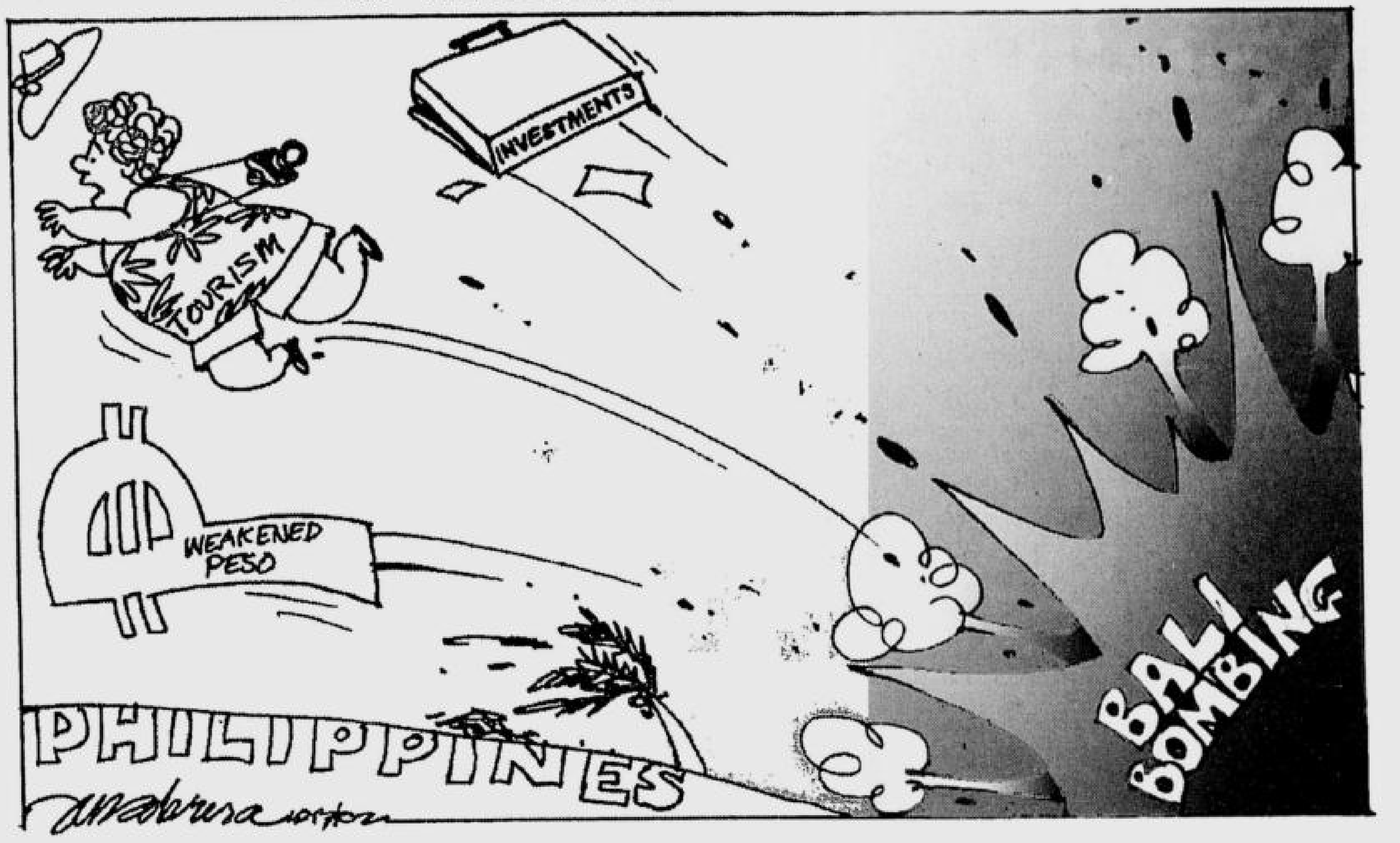
Other citizens of the global village have not allowed this startling behavior to pass without protest. Nelson Mandela went so far as to say that the United States was a threat to world peace. But that's Nelson Mandela. In this livid day and age (a super-enhanced McCarthy era, as it were) where the dictum of "either you're for us or against us" holds frightening sway, the act of resistance by people of lesser stature has become fraught with extreme danger.

Mercifully, certain valiant Americans have spoken out, raising the hope that, despite allegations to the contrary, the American people will not die of ignorance or indifference. "There are nations all over this globe that suffer from policies that we have implemented. People go away bitter, with a great sense of loss, and families are destroyed," Harry Belafonte told Larry King.

"This administration is violating almost every single nuclear arms control treaty that has been negotiated by the wisest statesmen in the world over years of negotiation," Dr. Helen Caldicott, founder of the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize co-winner Physicians for Social Responsibility, said in an interview with TomPaine.com.

"War with Iraq is now inevitable," wrote Charles Levendosky of the Casper Star-Tribune. "It's not a war against terrorism, not a war against weapons of mass destruction. It would be more accurate to call it an 'oil war'—a military invasion to secure Iraq's vast oil resources for American oil companies and the American people."

And standing on the floor of the US House of Representatives to say why he would vote against the resolution authorizing Bush to use military force on Iraq, Rep. Pete Stark (Dem., California) said the "bottom line" was that he did not trust the US president and his advisers. Stark borrowed a piquant quote from a piece written three years ago by Molly Ivins, "an observer of Texas politics," in the course of explaining his distrust: "For an upper-class white boy, Bush comes on way too hard. At a guess, to make up for being an upper-class white boy. Somebody should be worrying about how all this could affect his handling of future encounters with some Saddam Hussein."



Are the RP gov't, bank stealing retirees' money?

(Continued from yesterday)

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

THE ASSOCIATION of retired foreigners who came here at the invitation of the Philippine government, The Prama Foundation, complained to the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) when the Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority (PLRA) refused requests for access to records so that it, Prama, can update its data base and pinpoint discrepancies in the collection and remittance of members' dues.

On Feb. 14, 2002, after an investigation, the OGCC recommended to the PLRA board of trustees, "the dismissal of Vernatte Umali-Paco as PLRA general manager after OGCC investigating officer Melita Recto's report implicating Umali-Recto was approved by Government Corporate Counsel Amado Valdez.

The OGCC report partly stated that, "It has been established that there is an undeniable pattern of serious disregard on the part of repondent Umali-Paco of basic government procedures designed to ensure honesty in the handling of government funds or property held in trust or otherwise.

"The strained relationship of PRA and Prama Foundation brought about by the blatant violation of government rules and regulations committed and tolerated by respondent Umali-Paco has drastically eroded the trust and confidence reposed upon the PRA by its corporate clients, i.e. the retirees," the OGCC pointed out.

But the retirees' woes did not end with the dismissal of Umali-Paco.

Before she was ousted, the PLRA board of trustees passed a resolution which unilaterally terminated the memorandum of agreement between the PRA and Prama Foundation, terminated the appointment of Ramon M. Collado, a retired Spanish lawyer, as PRA consultant, rescinded the resolution requiring compulsory membership in Prama Foundation and adopted the policy that membership of principal retirees would now be on voluntary basis.

Moreover, the PRA ordered the depository banks to raise the PRA management fee from one-half percent to one percent, thus depriving Prama Foundation of its one-half percent share.

Consequently, Prama Foundation went to court and eventually obtained a favorable ruling from the Makati City Regional Trial Court.

In its Feb. 14, 2002 decision, the Makati RTC ordered the PLRA to reinstate the MOA with Prama Foundation and to issue "appropriate and necessary instruction to depository banks to remit all rightful commissions due to Prama Foundation."

When the court order was ignored, the Makati RTC cited the PLRA and its board of trustees, composed of Cabinet members of the Macapagal administration, in contempt of court but all of them were able to post bail to avoid spending time in jail.

Not only that, Prama Foundation's bank deposits in a Makati thrift bank—whose chair is a crony of President Macapagal-Arroyo—could not be withdrawn because the bank made illegal and unauthorized deductions and transfers. Prama Foundation wrote to Deputy Governor Alberto V. Reyes of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for help but Reyes has not even deigned to reply until now.

The letter stated that Prama Foundation has five deposit accounts, in dollars and pesos, in the said thrift bank (by the way, it is not one of the original four depository banks approved by the PRA and Prama Foundation) totaling P16,851,506.48. One of the accounts is named "Seed Capital" with a deposit of US$280,000.

"Last May 25, 2001," said the Prama letter to the Bangko Sentral, signed by its president, Collado, "the bank transferred our money from the Peso and Dollar savings accounts to the 'Seed Capital' without our authorization or any documentation.

"Also on May 25, 2001, the Bank closed the Civil Society Foundation Inc. Special Savings Account to transfer (the deposits) to the 'Seed Capital' Account without our authorization or any documentation. This money was entrusted to us by the United Nations for its projects and programs. In order to maintain the trust and confidence that the UN has for us, we opened another savings account in order for them (the bank) to return the money deposited under the 'Seed Capital' to the new savings account.

"Third incident, with my own personal account, the Bank, without my authorization and notice from them, put the monies from my time deposit and Special Savings Account into the 'Seed Capital.'

"In a nutshell, our Foundation's money, including my own, was entrusted to this Bank in good faith for our mutual benefit. However, I could not get back these monies which amount to P7,659,280.11 and US$473,567.70 as of this date (Oct. 3, 2002)…

"During one of the days when our accountant went to the Bank to follow up our requests (the bank president and CEO) told our accountant that he cannot grant our requests for withdrawal because Prama does not have any money anymore in (the Bank) because he deducted the ISI travel checks… We are not in any way connected with the gentleman's ticket loans, why would these loans be deducted from our accounts?"

The PLRA board must be panicking. In order to shut up and get rid of Prama president Collado, Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo, a member of the PLRA board, cancelled Collado's visa, ordered him arrested, and scheduled his deportation. Collado is now detained at the BI's detention center.

What is President Macapagal going to do about this which can erupt into another diplomatic bombshell if not handled properly? And think of what the Philippines' image would be in the world community.

Museum pieces

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

THE REPUTATION that museums generally have you'll find in that phrase "museum piece." Which means something utterly dated, or calcified, or dead, and of interest only to bone collectors. It's not unlike that other word, "history," which has been reduced to the phrase, "you're history," which also means something dead and forgotten.

Those phrases came to mind last Sunday when my wife, her *balikbayan* sister, and I visited the National Museum. That visit was long overdue. I had been wanting to do it for some time, in part from Director John Silva's repeated invitations or pleas and in part from personal curiosity, but had always put it off, dreading the crush of traffic in the area. That is the area of City Hall in Manila, seat of government in days of yore—that was where the Senate and the House were housed.

But of late I've been visiting museums abroad, and been oppressed by the feeling that I have been remiss in my duties doing so elsewhere and not right at home. Going to a museum is the fastest, and best, way to get to know a country, or have a sense of it. A museum gives you a capsule history of a country, its culture, its lifestyle, its character. It is the natural extension of books. That by itself is a compelling reason for any Filipino to bestir himself and visit the National Museum, or be conscripted to do so—to know his own country. That is something most Filipinos are remiss in. And even for those who do know, or presume to know, much about this country, you can never know about it enough.

But that was the part where the phrases "museum piece" and "you're history" came in. There was only a handful of people there. Of course it was an unholy hour when we came in, 2 p.m. of a Sunday. Several groups did drift by before the end of the day, though many of them were foreigners. But it was enough to make you feel, while your sandals squeaked through the well scrubbed floors in the cavernous corridors, the weight of unoccupied space.

A pity because the National Museum offers treasure in more ways than one. (Something quite incidentally which we ought to hold on to also in more ways than one: As Bambi Harper warns, the pillage of priceless artifacts and relics has become a national pastime.) Which is a credit to the people who are currently running it. The first thing that astounds you as you pass through the gate is that they do not charge an entrance fee. Incredibly, the visit is free, which is not the case with other museums abroad. That alone should be incentive enough for the impoverished, still in more ways than one.

The exhibits range from paintings to artifacts to clothes worn over the centuries to recreations of daily life before and after contact with the West. The paintings, which are on the ground floor, are a joy to behold, containing as they do works of Fernando Amorsolo, Botong Francisco, Ricarte Puruganan, Cesar Legazpi, Hernando Ocampo and Vicente Manansala, to name but a few. And several paintings of Juan Luna, which are enough to show you, even if you are not an art connoisseur, why Luna stormed Spain during his time, becoming the toast of its art world.

There wasn't just one genius that walked this earth in the late 19th century, there were two. Who were Jose Rizal and Juan Luna. Of course Luna went on not to die a martyr's death but to martyr his wife in a frenzy of jealous rage and murder her eventually. Which is also enough to show you that the greatest artists are not often the greatest human beings. But that is another story.

The articles recovered from sunken ships are a genuine treasure, if only from the point of view of their historical importance. They show that the first settlers of this country were not altogether lost—a view propagated by history books that say Magellan "discovered" this country—they had commerce with neighboring Asian countries. While at this, as another section shows, the pre-Spanish dwellers were not altogether primitive tribes lacking worship, or belief in the afterlife. The jars found in a cave in Saranggani are breathtaking, their lids bearing facial representations of the dead. They can be a little spooky too, the clay masks emitting a dull glow against beams of light in a dark and empty room. It could give the kids some fitful nights.

But the ultimate treasure there, the "museum piece" most worth seeing, is the museum itself. The building, with its tall ceilings, mosaic, wood paneling, and colonial architecture is there to remind us of a grand past and suggest a grand future, if we would only heed that past. It is at least a haven amid the frenzy of the urban jungle, an oasis in the desert of Metro Manila. You listen closely, and you'll hear its walls whisper the secrets of the centuries.

I'll say no more and leave the prospective viewer to discover its wonders for himself. I remember again what our guide in the Bonn Museum of Contemporary History said, which was that he was going to take us through a journey in time. The experience is quite more than that. You do not just board a bus that takes you through time, you utter the incantation that makes the past spring back to life. It is the next best thing to reliving history. Museums, you realize, are not a "museum piece" after all, and the last thing to think to say in the rush of sight and sound is, "you're history." Or to say, like Alice, "You're nothing but a pack of cards." Museums, you realize, are a living thing, like mist left on a window pane by warm breath on a cold day. They spin the delicate weave of real life through artifact and artwork, through collective image and individual imagination.

Now, as to my suggestion about building a (modest) museum of contemporary history, or the history of the last hundred years….

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

SEA never to be the same again after Oct. 12

FROM ALL indications, the bombings in the exotic island resort of Bali were well planned and a lot of investment went into intelligence-gathering for this act of terrorism. The bombings were timed on a Saturday evening when the hangout places in Kuta Beach were all full of young revelers out for cheap beer and loads of fun. Because it hit mostly foreigners (last weekend some 10,000 to 20,000 Australians were believed to be on holiday in the island), the impact was greater.

* * *

What made the terrorist attacks hurt Indonesia so much was that through the months of political turmoil in Jakarta following the fall of Suharto in 1999, the violent separatist movement in Aceh and racial and religious riotings in Sulawesi and Maluku, Bali had remained untouched by trouble; in fact, many tourists would head for that paradise island straight from abroad, in the thought that it was safe. The powerful car bomb that hit the crowded nightclub was the first such device used in Asia since the Vietnam War, whereas it remains quite common in the Basque area of Spain where it spills out into Madrid, and other parts of Europe.

Moreover, the terrorists knew how to hurt the Indonesian economy. Its tourism industry, which brought in about five million tourists in 2001, comes only second in foreign earnings to oil and gas, and Bali is its crown jewel. Now the jitters have spread to the business sector and the foreign community in Jakarta, sending the rupiah tumbling to new lows.

* * *

New York has its Sept. 11, after which it was never the same again. Now Southeast Asia has its Oct. 12 in Bali, and the region will never be the same again. For as Singapore professor Shyam Tekwani, who specializes in studying the communication strategies of terrorist groups, put it, "The explosions are a confirmation that the center of gravity for terrorist attacks has shifted from the Middle East to South Asia and now Southeast Asia." The problem with SEA, however, as the experts point out, is that anti-terrorism regulations are not in place here, rules are not being enforced and security is often lax.

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

One need not look far: look at the way the Naia personnel who monitor baggage X-ray often look quite distracted at *kung minsan nakikipagkwentuhan pa sa iba*. Compare this with the hawk-like way their counterparts monitor the screen in other airports.

* * *

Analysts have pointed out that Indonesia had made light of warnings from the US as well as its neighbors such as Malaysia and Singapore that terrorism has moved to its shores. Oct. 12 came as a rude awakening for our big neighbor. We hope that it too serves as a lesson that our government and people, who can only ignore the recent events, especially the bombing of our consulate in Menado, Sulawesi, at our peril.

* * *

The world has become truly one global village, so that the bombings in Bali have again put the rest of the planet on red alert. Leaving Rome after the Bali bombings, I noted the heavy police presence in the streets of the Eternal City, especially at famous tourist spots. At Fuimicino Airport, I saw something I haven't seen in any other airport—a carabinieri in full combat gear sitting on a specially made ledge above the level of the passengers in the departure area, with his mounted rifle ready for a shoot out.

At St. Peter's Basilica, where over the years I have been visiting, there has never been any security check before. But lately the security has arranged movement in the vast square so that it has full control of the entrance and exits; all bags are searched and everyone, even nuns and priests, are swept with metal detectors. I would make it a point to hear Mass regularly in St. Peter's between 7 and 7:30 a.m., and at that time the cavernous Basilica is practically empty and the security check is light and perfunctory. It left me bothered that the seat of Christendom is much too open to attacks.

* * *

I got together with RP ambassador to the Quirinale Philippe Lhuillier over lunch at a Sardinian restaurant near the embassy just before I left. His VIP guests who attended the canonization of St. Josemaria Escriva, the founder of Opus Dei, as well as those who came for a trade mission, had all gone and he could relax a bit again. In addition to looking after the VIPs, Lhuillier, Labor Attaché Cora Alfonso and the embassy staff have been working very hard to reach everyone of the 30,000 to 40,000 undocumented Filipinos in Italy, to encourage them to avail themselves of the Italian government's regularization program for illegal immigrants whose deadline is Nov. 9.

The embassy's info drive, which has been carried out through Pinoy radio stations in Rome and various Filipino associations, has been effective. I note that in Venice and Florence, where we traveled by train after the canonization, the Filipinos were quite aware of what they had to do. Lhuillier has also been networking with Italian authorities to clarify the grey areas in the new immigration law's implementation; he feels that the guidelines will be made available only in December.

* * *

In my visit to Rome during Jubilee Year 2000, Lhuillier already talked to me about his dream of putting up a first-rate Philippine Center there, which could be used partly to put up Filipino trade and cultural exhibits, art shows and musicals, etc., and partly as a gathering place for the big Pinoy community. Two years later the center still remains a dream, the affable envoy said with a grin, but he is not giving up. He also wants to put up a sculpture in Piazza Manila in downtown Rome, opposite the bust of our national hero, that will pay tribute to the heroic efforts of the OFWs in Italy; he has asked Rome-based sculptor Tomas Concepcion to make some initial sketches for his approval.

Note to naysayers

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"THE WORLD is full of naysayers—people who say it can't be done, it will never work, we're too small and insignificant, they're too powerful, and on and on. These are the people who let fear conquer them and dominate their sorry lives and who seem to want the same for others. But it doesn't have to be like this. There is a way out of the darkness."

This is a "warning" that opens a small booklet, containing "Questions and Answers," about what its founders have called "a political movement for the common good," called Kapatiran sa Pangkalahatang Kabutihan or KPK.

KPK's officers call themselves a "political movement" in the meanwhile before they morph into a full-blown political party, perhaps in time for the 2004 elections. While refusing to identify formally with any of the major formations, they do sound quite critical of the present order. To the question of who formed Kapatiran, they say: "Kapatiran was organized by a group of ordinary citizens and ordinary lay faithful who can no longer sit idly by while they see the betrayal of public trust by elected and appointed public officials, man's inhumanity to man, the poor and the marginalized exploited by unscrupulous politicians to promote their selfish ends, the deterioration of public and private morality, the decline of the family, high crime rates and increased corruption in government, and who want to put an end to dirty politics."

Quite a mouthful. These are observations and criticisms that one would expect to be mouthed by radical groups or youthful protesters. Certainly not by men who, by appearance, occupation and reputation are "pillars of society." Still, we must ask: If even lawyers and other professionals, businessmen and Catholic lay leaders can submit such a damning indictment of Philippine politics, then who's still happy with the status quo?

* * *

WHAT then does Kapatiran wish to change in Philippine politics, law and policy?

They have an alphabet—long list of policy objectives, some of which read like civics rubrics. There are some, though, that are sure to raise the hackles of present-day politicians and interest groups.

In pursuit of its intent to promote transparency and public accountability, for instance, Kapatiran would "enforce the liquidation of cash advances to public officials within the fiscal year that they were received." The party would also abolish the "pork barrel" or congressional prerogative "in any form and regardless of its name," a plank in its platform that won't earn it any friends in Congress, I bet.

Kapatiran would also rein in the behavior, including the enjoyment of perks and privileges, of public officials. They would disallow elected and appointed officials from maintaining a media presence, be it writing a column, acting in movies or TV, hosting or anchoring TV shows, even public affairs shows, or even appearing in commercials. If the party would have its way, it would also "put an end to the practice of providing armed bodyguards to candidates" and office holders.

* * *

OF course, in line with the life-long crusade of its chair, Nandy Pacheco, Kapatiran would also move for the passage of "a stringent gun control law (that would) provide a long prison term with perpetual disqualification from holding public office" to violators. It would even "destroy and melt down for conversion into plowshares, manhole covers and other useful instruments, smuggled and confiscated guns."

Part and parcel of this "anti-gun," "anti-violence," "anti-death" position is Kapatiran's determination to abolish the death penalty and to put an end to government's involvement in the "production and manufacture of the technology of death and the arms trade." It would also put an end to school fraternity violence, and even to sports "whose main objective is to inflict physical harm or violence on the opponent." (Does this include the behavior of the fans, too?)

Surely controversial, too is its avowed aim to "abolish Pagcor and all forms of gambling, whether run by the government or the private sector, except the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office."

And as an indication of Kapatiran's ambitions to full-fledged partyhood, it also promises "to field and support national and local candidates for public office who are morally upright, educated, experienced and competent" and of course who also subscribe to what Kapatiran stands for.

* * *

EXPECT more political movements, political parties and political formations to emerge from the woodwork as we near the starting gate of the 2004 elections.

There are some, sick and tired of endless political bickering and nauseous at the prospect of a national obsession with politics come 2004, who will bemoan the emergence of so many partisan interests, no matter how well intentioned.

But I would take a more benign view of the matter. Only time and the determination of the fine gentlemen of Kapatiran will tell whether the political movement will blossom into a national party capable of fielding candidates at all levels. But even if remains inchoate, I would encourage and nurture the formation of groups like Kapatiran. A decade or so ago, it would have been unthinkable for such middle-of-the-road good citizens as the founders of Kapatiran to even consider entering politics. But here they are declaring that politics is indeed God's work, and that ordinary lay faithful, "have to…accept our share of culpability for the nation's sad state of affairs." That's about as clear and unequivocal an expression of civil responsibility that I've encountered, and it's not just all about politics.

(For inquiries, e-mail Kapatiran at kpkcommongood@hotmail.com

Coming home

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THIS book holds many stories, even future movie scripts, plays, novels and songs in it. Because it is about real life being played out right now, with real-life characters providing flesh, blood, tears, sweat and stories. But it is also social history writ large by unknown, little people.

While the book contains a lot of sociological and economic data and analyses related to the phenomenon of Filipinos working overseas that swept the Philippines starting in the 1970s, it is the families that stand out and provide faces to cold figures.

One can judge by the book's cover. It has the drawings of children of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) that show how children feel about their mothers' absence and their longing for their homecoming.

"Coming Home: Women, Migration and Reintegration" (Estralla Dizon-Añonuevo and Augustus T. Añonuevo, editors) is different from many books and research papers on OFWs that I have read. I know, because I had watched the writers-researchers slowly bring the stories to life through their pens. They came down from their safe perches in the academe to wade into the lives of OFWs still toiling abroad and their families—children, husbands, caretakers, surrogate parents—that are left behind here.

But "Coming Home" is not just a book. Its editors and authors call it action research. While it was being written, and now while it is being read, something concrete and positive was/is being done so that the stories would, someday, have good, happy endings. Organizing is a key. The First National Conference on OFW Reintegration is a fruit.

Are migrant women nearer to their dreams of a better life for their families? What is the social cost of the feminization of migration? Are women OFWs willing and ready to come home? What are the possibilities for their successful reintegration?

The book shows—through the stories, anecdotes, data and analyses—the whys and what's going on, how families cope, stay strong or even break apart. But more importantly, it shows how reintegration could take place if families, local communities, civil society and government work together. And indeed, now they are all trying to work together—at least in some parts of the country, thanks to two non-government organizations, Balikabayani and Atikha. The former, headed by Mai-Dizon Añonuevo organizes OFWs in their host countries, while the latter, headed by Gina Alunan-Melgar, runs community-based reintegration programs that includes savings and investment schemes, counseling and organizing.

Balikabayani and Atikha were behind the book/action research and were supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (Cida) and The Ford Foundation. As Cida's Anne Germain said, the project turned out to be more than what was expected.

"Coming Home" is divided into three chapters, "Migrant Women's Lives," "Social Cost of Migration" and "Coming Home and Reintegration" made up of 15 articles. Some articles have titles/subtitles in Pilipino that are descriptive of a phenomenon. For example, Rosanna Luz F. Valerio "Iisang Pisa: Clans in Chain Migration" shows entire families and barangays that relocated in Italy. "Fiesta, Tong-its at Iba Pa: Importing Pinoy Culture Abroad" is about OFWs taking with them the ways of the home country while "Pagtitimpi at Panggigigil: Sex and Migrant Woman" partly deals with "affairs to remember and to soon forget." "Pag-ahon sa Kumunoy ng Utang: The Debt-Ridden Life of Migrant Women" is an eye-opener.

A. Añonuevo and Mary Grace A. Guerra's "Lola, Tita, Ate…Nanay Ko Rin? Caretakers as Mother Substitutes" is about the sometimes confused roles surrogates play while caring for the equally confused children. "The Plight of Children of OFWs" Gina Alunan-Melgar and Rene B. Borromeo is heartbreaking.

"Doing the Second Shift: Difficulties of Husbands Left Behind" by A. Añonuevo and Denis Estopace shows the sad and sometimes funny portrait of husbands who have to play father and mother to their children, their vices and virtues and how they cope.

"Paglaki Ko, Magaabroad Ako: Aspirations of Children of Migrant Workers" by A. Añonuevo and Joicel C. Sopena is a portent of things to come if things don't change for the better.

But there is hope. Jeremaiah Opiniano's "Social Capital and the Development Potential of Migration in Barangay Sta. Rosa" shows why. Opiniano tackles the concept of social capital, albeit with caution, and the so-called new "social capital theory of migration." This theory, he explains, combines the economics of remittances, the social capital of networks and the policy to point to the positive effects of migration.

The writers and editors decided to keep the many quotes in Pilipino in order to capture the emotions and show the human side. For example, Filipino women working in Hong Kong are wont to say: *"Basta Pinoy, kahit duling o tatlo ang butas ng ilong, pinag-aagawan!"* But listen to this: *"Inaalagaan kong mabuti ang mga anak ng ibang tao, samantalang hindi ko man lamang mayakap ang mga tunay kong anak."*

More than the statistics, it is the voices of the individuals that ring true. *"Lalo na sa may asawa, huwag na lang mag-*abroad *para walang pagsisishan. Hindi maganda kapag umalis ang babae sa tabi ng lalaki. (Ang lalaki) natututo ng katamaran at bisyo."*

Will you not be moved by this: *"Nun pong sinalubong namin si Nanay sa airport, hanap kami ng hanap sa kanya, and dami-daming tao di ko siya makita. Kasi na rin sa* picture *ko lang siya nakita. Tapos bigla na lang may yumakap sa akin so likod tapos inikot-ikot ako habang naiyak siya, siya na pala ang Nanay ko!"*

Family. Home. This is what stands out in this book. Not the dollar, not the lira. The sooner OFWs are reintegrated into their families and communities, the better.

* * *

Comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

Lunar chase

YOUNG BLOOD

Ani S. Bautista

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

IT'S 11:32 p.m., a Monday night. I've been living my life by the moon, so darn dependent on whatever fate brings, always waiting for tomorrow, albeit faithlessly. I hate it when a day is over. Bedtime gives me the creeps. It turns my room into an asylum of some sort. It's about being alone, it's about pretending that your life has suddenly stopped and it's time for some evaluation. It's about rethinking a whole day, and sometimes, a whole life. Rethinking my life haunts me. But more than any kind of feeling, it hurts to realize that nothing has changed.

An option to take when you're exhausted from real life is a trip to dreamland. The fare is free and everybody knows that. Bedtime signals the time to escape, for a new life to begin. This seems to be the only good thing about bedtime.

I used to have simple dreams and they used to appear so near that I could almost grab them. It used to be so clear that all I wanted in life were a degree and a career, most probably on television, until last year, shortly after I enlisted for my thesis-making subject being the last on my checklist, I got sick. I was not able to finish working on my thesis. I did not really have to stay home but the decision for self-exile (in my room) was easy, one look at the mirror and it was easy to come up with such a decision.

I've been sick for a year now and I'm on my way to recovery. The scars on my face are starting to show. Thus, making my recovery period no different from my sick period. They are equally traumatic, equally unbearable. To this day, I still refuse to tell how the scars were before they were scars. The only thing that's clear now is that my frailties might forbid me from achieving a career on TV! At present, I am off to my third residency at the university. Residency to me now appears to be an excuse to stay connected to the university until such time that I'd be able to accomplish my thesis. It's like a pass for lurking around the campus when you're not supposed to be there anymore (for reasons like, you're too old for school, etc.). Somehow, recovery gives me a hint that I just might finish my thesis this semester, something I am actually obliged to do now since we're only given a year to do it. But the dream job is still far from reality, exactly why I'm subconsciously calling it a dream.

A "sub dream" was to be the one to send my sister to college just so she could take up a filmmaking course, the course I am frustrated in taking myself. This is a dream that may come to reality if I am able to get a job soon. Everything seems to be working in a chain. In a perfect world, dreams do come true. But since there is no such world, they won't, mine won't. They will all stay stuck in my mind until they overflow and my mind decides to self-destruct without me being aware of it. It's what good people call "lunacy."

For every dream that can't seem to make its way to the real world, I would utter so patiently, "next time, next time..." In grade school, when I wasn't able to maintain being on top of my class, I said, "next time, in high school." But the time never came and I had to hold on to another dream. And when the dream of getting the cutest guy in school failed, still I said, "next time, in college." The time never came and still, there is that dream of landing a job on TV! And then I got sick. This time I won't be holding on to another dream anymore. It's about time I face the mirror and realize that I am really bad at making dreams—a conclusion that must be as superficial as my problem with facial scars.

But how does one stop dreaming? It's an option to take instead of committing suicide. Lying in bed, staying awake/alive for hours trying to do what is not doable anymore in the real and present life: trying to recover the friends I lost, trying to save the life of my favorite dog, to make up for mistakes in being a daughter and sister, to catch up on failed courses, to win the man who never seems to notice my existence—trying to achieve what can't be achieved and live a life that can't be lived anymore.

Bedtime scares the hell out of me, even when my mind's filled with idealistic dreams. I am always scared that at just one wink, it'll all go away. Then, I'll be alone again.

It's 3:23 a.m., time flies, it's a Tuesday now. I just got out of bed. I was trying to get some sleep some hours ago but I just couldn't do it! My head is aching. Maybe because I was thinking of so many stuff like undergoing a dermabrasion for all these scars that may be causing all the crazy thoughts to run through my head. I am a sucker for some real good sleep now, but not for the purpose of curing a headache...but the nostalgia for dreams again.

Ani S. Bautista, 22, wants to be a TV documentary program correspondent, not an "artista." She hopes to earn a degree in Philippine Studies at the University of the Philippines this month.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO . . .?

Rizal Day bombing

THREE suspects believed to be connected to the bombing of the Light Rail Transit on Dec. 30, 2000 were charged with multiple murder, multiple frustrated murder and multiple attempted murder before the Manila Regional Trial Court on Jan. 24, 2002.

Accused at the sala of Judge Wilfredo Reyes, acting presiding judge of Branch 36, were Hadji Onos, Col. Efren Torres and Sammy Arinday. The bombing of a North-bound train at the LRT's Blumentritt station on Rizal Day killed at least 12 passengers and injured about 50 people.

The National Bureau of Investigation said that the plot was allegedly hatched a month before the bombing. The suspects were promised P20,000 each for their participation. Onos and Arinday were the "ground commanders" while Torres acted as middleman between the two and the masterminds.

On Feb. 4, 2002, warrants for the arrest of the three accused were issued by Reyes. They were sent to the chiefs of police of Marawi City and Davao City. Copies were also furnished to the NBI, the Western Police District and the PNP's Criminal Investigation Service. The WPD later returned the unexecuted warrants saying that the addresses on the warrants were not within their area of responsibility.

Nine days before the suspects were charged, the police arrested Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi in Manila. He admitted masterminding the plot to bomb the LRT and implicated Malaysians Faiz Bin Abu Bakar Bafana and Riduan Isamudin, alleged members of the extremist Jemaah Islamiyah organization, and an unnamed Cebu-based businessman. He was charged with illegal possession of explosives and eventually sentenced to 12 years in prison by the Gen. Santos City RTC Branch 35 in April 2002. Also, in view of Al-Ghozi's revelations, the PNP Intelligence Group asked the Manila RTC for documents pertaining to the case of Onos, et al.

Case status: The case against Onos, Torres and Arinday is not progressing in court because the suspects are still at large. Davao and Marawi City police still have not replied to the warrants. Al-Ghozi and the three other suspects he implicated are not yet formally included in the charge sheet at the Manila RTC.

Armin Adina, PDI Research Department

No moral ascendancy in US plans on Iraq

ALL moral ascendancy has been lost as the United States blatantly manipulates the Security Council of the United Nations into endorsing more violence and death upon Iraq. The United States has recently declared that the United Nations must comply with all conditions laid down by the United States or it will launch a "preemptive" and "unilateral" attack on Iraq ignoring the United Nations all together. The United States has made a hostage of the United Nations and is thwarting its existence as an international body that stands as a mediator above all nations.

Holding the United Nations hostage is not a new policy of the United States. On Iraq alone, the United States fashioned economic sanctions that it compelled the United Nations to implement to avert war in 1990, only to scoff at the United Nations by launching Desert Storm in 1991. After raining 88,500 tons of bombs on Iraq, the United Nations was led by the United States to starve Iraq with economic sanctions when it was evident that Iraq had been virtually obliterated and deprived of all infrastructure, including basic services such as water systems, electric power, transportation, food storage facilities, markets, business centers, schools and hospitals. These UN sanctions account for the death of nearly 1.5 million civilians of which 600,000 were children under 5 years old.

The United States is now declaring it is on the brink of launching a "preemptive" war. By doing so, the United States will plunge a knife into the very heart of the United Nations because it deliberately violates the UN Charter forbidding countries from launching wars except as an act of self-defense.

There is no significant evidence proving that today or at anytime in the past did Iraq have links with Islamic extremists who plotted or engaged in aggressive violent acts against the United States.

The world cannot stand by and watch this self-righteous act of US imperialism. For the United States to ignore the United Nations and ransack the sovereignty of another UN member nation with a "preemptive" strike because it possesses weapons of mass destruction, its leader is oppressive and it has violated a UN resolution, is insane. Israel alone has defied 28 UN resolutions, yet the United States has always looked the other way. In whose name does the United States arrogate to itself the role of master of the planet? The world must stand up and stop this ugly America.

—CARLTON J. PALM,
professor, Silliman University,
Dumaguete City

Alarm on Metro air pollution

RECENT photographs of Makati's smog-covered skyline and Manila's air quality ranking as the fourth most polluted in the world are clear enough indications that we are in the middle of an air quality crisis. The alarming statistics of respiratory diseases caused by air pollution from motor vehicles are further proof that this is a matter of great urgency.

Since vehicular emissions are the leading cause of the pollution in Metro Manila, it is logical to concentrate the efforts against air pollution on the apprehension of the violators of the Clean Air Act. ABS-CBN's Bantay Usok, which allows the public to report offenders through text messaging, has already taken up this cause. Judging, however, by the sheer number of motor vehicles in Metro Manila, which is even expected to increase significantly by next year, its efforts are clearly not enough.

The government and other environmental groups should also come up with ways to supplement Bantay Usok's campaign. They should, for example, consider the feasibility of providing some sort of assistance to public utility vehicle drivers and operators in maintaining the engines of their vehicles in order to fight air pollution at its source. This, along with an organized monitoring system and the setting up of accredited machine repair shops for private vehicle owners, may successfully supplement Bantay Usok's work. With increased effort from the government and non-government groups and similarly increased public awareness and support, these programs may significantly reduce the number of smoke-belching vehicles on our streets and thus prevent the level of air pollution from getting worse than it already is.

—MARTIN MALABANAN,
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Impressed by Monsod

PROF. Solita Monsod of the University of the Philippines should be lauded for voicing her gutsy and honest opinion on the present political landscape in a recent seminar organized by the INQUIRER.

In her talk on "The Identity of the Youth in a Changing Philippines," Monsod did not hold her punches when she encouraged the youth to change politics and bring about good governance. She identified three simple things the youth can do to bring about meaningful changes in our society, and these are:

(1) Convince people not to vote for action star Fernando Poe Jr. (FPJ) in 2004.

(2) Call up radio stations to criticize wrongdoings of government officials (both administration and opposition) because politicians are afraid of the media.

(3) Attend barangay assemblies and make their views known.

Monsod also encouraged the youth to remind their parents to pay the right taxes. Rightly so, because the taxes our parents pay are the lifeblood of the government. I mean, we can't complain about bad roads, bad government services, corrupt cops, underpaid teachers if the citizens don't pay the right taxes, can we?

Our favorite "Debate" host even went a step further to stress her point when she said, "Convince 19 other people why FPJ should not be it." Then she added, "I will never vote for FPJ and will campaign violently against Ping Lacson." She was referring to the planned team-up of Poe and Lacson in the 2004 presidential elections.

We need more celebrities like Monsod who, after analyzing what is good for the majority of the Filipino people, actually comes out in the open to voice out her views. I think our populace needs guidance from role models and respected academicians like Monsod. This will give us a better perspective of the options and pitfalls of the coming elections.

The Filipino can't afford to make another mistake. We are slowly recovering from crisis after crisis. We must be more analytical of the situation we are in and the solutions we have at our disposal in solving these problems. I honestly feel that voting a lame duck of a president won't do us any good.

Again, I salute Solita Monsod for her courage and candidness in exposing probably the biggest pitfall our country has on its way.

—FLORENTINE V. ZALAMEA,
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Confused and erring QC prosecutor

ACCORDING to Quezon City assistant prosecutor Dindo Venturanza, the dismissal of Mariquit Soriano's complaint against Robert Johnson Go and Eric Severino is based on Soriano's "lack of credibility." Being new, Venturanza must have been confused about his duty which was to determine probable cause and not to judge who is more credible between the contending parties, which should be left to the trial court.

Obviously, other considerations beclouded Venturanza's objectivity. He is probably liable for violating Sec. 3(e) of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act by causing injury to Soriano in giving Go and Severino unwarranted benefits, advantage or preference in the exercise of his judicial functions through manifest partiality, evident bad faith or gross inexcusable negligence and ignorance of the law in view of the following:

1. There are actually two charges, namely: sexual harassment and acts of lasciviousness that the National Bureau of Investigation endorsed to the Quezon City prosecutor's office for the prosecution of Go and Severino. It appears Venturanza didn't act on the latter.

2. Venturanza, wittingly or unwittingly, set that aside in the preliminary investigation, it is enough to determine probable cause. The mere fact that Soriano filed a complaint and was forced to resign her P80,000 a month job because of Go's alleged sexual advances and Severino's harassment should be prima facie evidence she might have been a victim.

3. Even before the enactment of RA 7877, otherwise known as the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995, the Supreme Court had already decided a sexual harassment case (GR 106341, Sept. 2, 1994) involving a manager and a subordinate employee in which the court affirmed the dismissal of the manager for harassing the latter.

4. Some provisions of our law may have been lifted from US jurisprudence, which holds that sexual harassment may be committed even without any sexual contact at all. It's about power. When a manager, teacher or superior uses his ascendancy, power or rank to exact or solicit sexual favor, sexual harassment is consummated even without sexual relationship.

5. In a subsequent case (GR 123737, May 28, 1999), the court ruled that even touching the hands and shoulders and caressing the nape of a lady employee constitute sexual harassment and upheld the decision of company management to punish the perpetrator. Worse, the latter spread a rumor that it was the lady who was actively pursuing him. Thus, she was scorned.

Venturanza claimed that Soriano had no witnesses (in fact, three close friends executed sworn statements that Soriano confided in them Go's sexual advances and sought advice on what to do because she couldn't afford to lose her job), while Go had witnesses who said they never saw him make sexual advances on Soriano on the dates in question.

Venturanza didn't give it a thought that Go's witnesses are his employees and therefore cannot testify against him for fear of losing their jobs, which is the same reason why Soriano didn't file the complaint earlier.

I hope Soriano would elevate her cases to the justice department where she would probably get a better treatment.

—ROMMEL B. OCAD,
11 Cattleya St., Mindanao Ave.
Subd., Quezon City

Why are national priorities going haywire?

THE ENTIRE energies of our government are now focused on combating terrorism, further relegating to the remotest corner all concerns for development and justice. Aside from adopting President George W. Bush's regime change project in Iraq as its own and waging an all-out war against the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front as a "foreign terrorist organization," the Macapagal administration is now set on fast-tracking the Anti-Terrorism Bill and instituting a national ID system.

Has the government given up on addressing (through positive programs like, say, Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal) mass hunger (40 million Filipinos are now hungry, according to a BBC report) and runaway poverty (about 90 percent of Filipinos are now poor)? Has the government given up on efforts to rectify the prevailing social injustice in a society in which only 10 percent of the population—the 8 percent middle class (which includes fortunate overseas Filipino workers) and the 2 percent rich (the remaining lords of business and agriculture)—are rich, blissful in their role as junior partners of greedy transnational corporations in our country?

Is it now the policy of our government to rein in the victims of hunger, poverty and injustice by terrorizing them through the Balikatan exercises, through an all-out-war against terror, through the fascist anti-terror bill and through regimentation under a national ID system?

If there are terrorists in this country today, they populate mainly the imagination of Bush's Filipino alter-egos. It is the policy of reliance on repression and violence, which now dominates official thinking in this country, rather than reliance on positive programs of development and justice, which will make terrorists of Filipinos by the millions.

—AMADO GAT INCIONG,
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'Gulay'

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

"SINCE when were seaweeds considered vegetables?" one of my friends asked, after I did a column about our large importations of vegetables, and how we have been neglecting local vegetables, including seaweeds.

My friend's question reminded me about how words can be quite arbitrary, assigned in different cultures to have different meanings. Ask Filipinos what they consider to be "*gulay*" and you will find variations based on class and ethnicity, an upper-class Filipino naming "Baguio vegetables" such as cauliflower and broccoli while a lower-income Filipino will mention *kangkong* and *pechay*.

My old Webster's dictionary gives different definitions of "vegetable." In its broadest sense, vegetables are supposed to refer to any plant, thus the "vegetable kingdom." Specifically, Webster's tells us it can be "any plant that is eaten whole or in part, raw or cooked, generally with an entrée or in a salad but not as a dessert" or "the edible part of such plants."

Webster's definitions demonstrate how vegetables are more than a matter of "edible plants." Note that what makes a plant a vegetable is its place in a meal. It has to be with an entrée or in a salad, the latter term, derived from "sal" or salt to refer to a mixture of different foods with a dressing, usually salt, oil and vinegar.

The cultural differences can be striking. Grapefruits and avocados can be vegetables in a western meal, served at the beginning of a meal while in the Philippines, *suha* and *abukado* are never seen as vegetables but as fruits served for dessert.

Note too how western vegetables are in fact quite varied, utilizing different parts of plants. You may have leaves (spinach, lettuce, cabbage) while are others are actually roots (beet, turnip, carrot), fruits (okra, eggplant, tomato) or even flowers (broccoli, artichoke and of course cauliflower).

Urban Filipinos tend to think of vegetables in a western sense, with visions of rows and rows of cabbages, lettuce, carrots, tomatoes. I can't help but think it reflects western culture and its need for defined categories and systematization. I'm looking at a packet of tomato seeds right now and it has very explicit instructions on when you plant, where you plant, when you transfer the seedlings—including distances between plants and between rows—and when you harvest.

For most Filipinos, vegetables are, well, stuff that's grown here and there and picked when ready. When's ready? It depends. In many non-western cultures, food can be something in between ripe and immature. We use unripe papaya, for example, for *atsara* while the Thais use it, with peanuts and other vegetables, for a succulent salad.

Vegetables are what you define it to be, and the definitions can change. I like the way Filipinos answer, when you ask about the use of a particular plant, that it is something you can "*ginugulay*," literally something you can "vegetable-ize." There are quite a number of plants whose leaves are used for this purpose, from *alagaw* and *mangga* to *camote* and *sili* (red pepper).

These leaves have distinctive flavors—try picking out young mango leaves and you'll find they have a pleasantly tart taste. While you're at it, you might want to get a new book by Maur Aquino Lichauco, "Oops...Don't Throw Those Weeds" which lists many common weeds that are edible. (I should qualify I haven't seen the book myself. I'm depending on a review that appeared in last Friday's INQUIRER.)

We do have cultivated vegetables, where again we tend to use leaves, many of the plants introduced by the Chinese such as *pechay, kuchay, kintsay, "chay"* meaning a vegetable in Hokkien.

Seaweeds? I consider them vegetables since they're plants, and they're served as a salad. My favorite is called *lato* in Tagalog and Cebuano, also known by the English *sosyal* name of sea grapes. It's hard to find but you can get them at Farmer's Market if you ask by its Ilokano name *ar-arusep*. Note that the *lato* is sold in the fish section rather than with other vegetables. Occasionally, you'll find them in supermarkets—I've been lucky with SM Megamall as well as S&R. These seaweeds make good salads, alone or in combination with tomatoes, cucumbers and other vegetables.

What's sad is that although we have many plants that can be used as vegetables, the general Filipino attitude toward "*gulay*" is that they're side dishes, even decorative garnishes. Observe people at your next party and you'll find most of the left-overs are vegetables. Many eat around the vegetables, pushing the greens to the side almost as if they are inedible.

Locally, too, so-called vegetable dishes are never complete without meat or fish thrown in, which always horrifies vegetarians. Not only that, the most beautiful vegetables are massacred in the hands of Filipino cooks, who insist on "cooking" them down to pulpy gook. *Gulay* is, after all, not itself a main dish or *ulam*, but a side dish, a garnish or at best, an ingredient in a meat or fish dish.

But all this is not peculiar to us. In the United States and other western countries, vegetables were, and continue, to be seen as supplementary foods. Meats provided protein, cereals provided carbohydrates and vegetables and fruits were the "etcetera" foods that took care of vitamins and minerals. Vegetables were food you had to force on kids, with cartoons like Popeye and his miraculous spinach used to drive home the point.

Only in the last two or three decades have nutritionists realized what vegetarian cultures have known for a long time, that one can live on vegetables alone and that possibly, vegetarians live longer lives than those who insist on a "full" meal with meat. I can predict that our notions of "*gulay*" will become more positive as well. Ironically, this might happen because of our colonial mentality, finally convinced about the nutritional value of vegetables only because American magazines say they're healthy.

***

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

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Bid to hijack Saudi airliner foiled

KHARTOUM—Guards foiled an attempt to hijack a Saudi Arabian Airlines flight on Tuesday heading from Sudan to Jeddah with 204 people on board, Saudi and Sudanese officials said.

The failed hijacking by a Saudi gunman is the latest in a series of global attacks which have put the world on edge amid fears of an upsurge in guerrilla violence.

The airline said in a statement carried by Saudi state media that none of the 185 passengers or 19 crew on Flight 450 was injured as guards disarmed and arrested the gunman.

A security source at Khartoum's international airport said the hijacker was injured and was now being treated at a private hospital in the Sudanese capital. He said the gunman had sought to force the plane to London where he wanted to seek asylum.

The aircraft returned to Khartoum and landed safely, before resuming its aborted journey to the Saudi port city of Jeddah.

Journalists in Jeddah said the plane arrived there late on Tuesday, but reporters were not allowed access to the passengers who were taken to a separate terminal usually used by pilgrims.

Saudi Arabian Airlines identified the hijacker as Adel Nasir Ahmed Faraj, aged about 29. The Sudanese source had earlier identified the man as Adel Nasir Zahra, 37.

Sudan's Interior Ministry said a probe was under way to determine how the man boarded the plane armed with a pistol.

"If we find negligence on the side of any person or institution, measures will be taken," Interior Ministry spokesperson Sayed al-Husseiny told radio Omdurman.

The incident came just over a month after the first anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks by suicide hijackers against the United States.

Most of the suicide hijackers were Saudis. Saudi-born Osama bin Laden, the alleged mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks, lived in Sudan from 1991 to 1996 before he was expelled and moved to Afghanistan.

The Sudanese security source said the hijacker had pulled out his gun 20 minutes into the flight and threatened the pilot.

A guard on board the flight struck the gunman from behind and overpowered him after he dropped his weapon.

"The plane was inspected for explosives. None were found and the security authority began investigations with the hijacker," the statement from the Sudanese Interior Ministry said.

The security source said the man had been in Sudan for nine days before the attempted hijacking, but it was not clear what he had been doing in the country.

The failed hijacking is the latest in a global wave of crime. While authorities have not proved a link between the incidents, they have rattled the nerves of a world still shaken by Sept. 11.

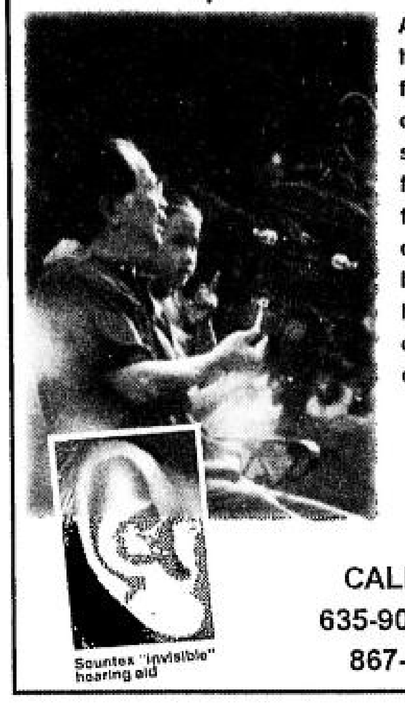
In Indonesia, investigators are searching for links between bomb blasts in Bali at the weekend, which killed more than 180 people, and Bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

A statement purportedly from Bin Laden, carried by Qatar's al-Jazeera television on Monday, praised recent attacks against US soldiers in Kuwait and an oil tanker in Yemen.

Saudi Arabian Airlines was last victim of a hijacking in Oct. 2000, when two Saudi youths diverted a Jeddah to London flight with 90 passengers on board to Iraq's capital Baghdad.

The hijackers said in Baghdad they were seeking rights for Saudis like decent education and health services and called for the removal of the Saudi monarchy. *Reuters*

"Grandad, remember the secrets we used to share?"



Approximately seven million people in the Philippines with hearing impairment suffer from feelings of isolation, frustration and loneliness that result in reduction in quality of life. Fortunately, for the vast majority, the solution is simple - a properly fitted hearing aid. If you think you or a family member may have a hearing loss, call Sountex today for a "no-obligation" FREE HEARING TEST. Sountex uses computerized hearing test equipment from world leader in hearing aid technology, Siemens, to measure any level of hearing loss promptly, precisely and painlessly. Call our caring and experienced consultants for a FREE computerized hearing assessment.

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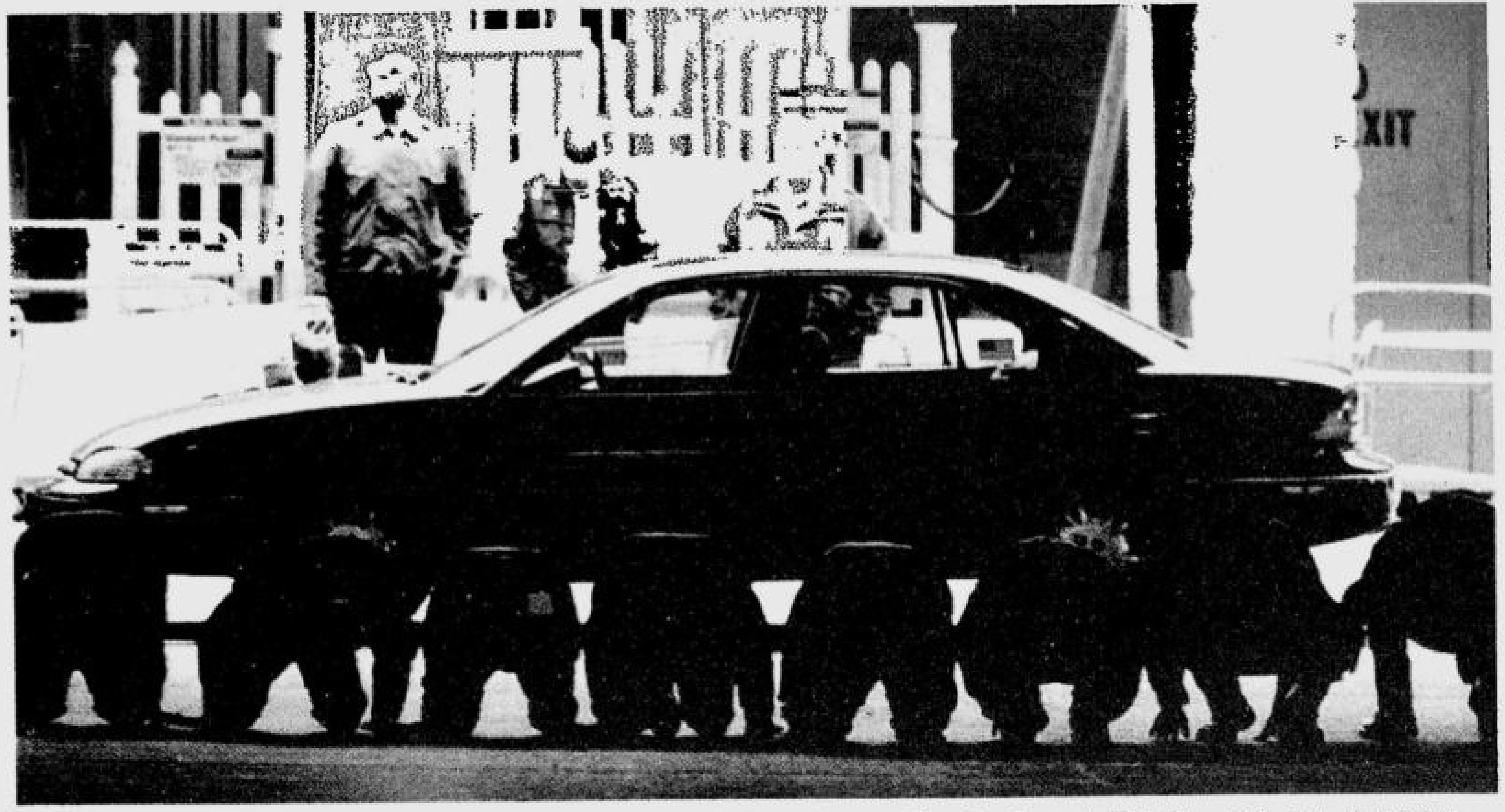
Woman 9th victim of Washington sniper



INVESTIGATORS search for clues at the latest sniper shooting at the Seven Corners Shopping Center in Falls Church, Va. Oct. 15. Ballistic evidence conclusively links the death of the woman shot in the head Monday night with eight other killings by a Washington-area sniper, authorities said.

AP

FAIRFAX, Va.—Police said on Tuesday new evidence gleaned from the ninth murder by a sniper in the Washington area gave them the best chance yet of catching the serial killer whose latest victim was shot dead while loading her car with shopping bags.

FBI employee Linda Franklin, 47, was killed in front of her husband by a single shot to the head late on Monday in the parking lot of a Home Depot hardware store in Falls Church, Virginia.

"There was some additional information we were able to get from last night's case and I am confident that ultimately that information is going to lead to an arrest in this case," Fairfax County, Virginia, Police Chief Thomas Manger told a news briefing.

Charles Moose, the police chief of Montgomery County in neighboring Maryland, said Franklin, an FBI intelligence analyst, was not involved in the sniper investigation and was therefore considered yet another random victim.

For the 11th time in less than two weeks, the gunman eluded authorities in spite of the quick deployment of dozens of federal, state and local law enforcement agents who shut down major arteries around the scene and searched vehicles.

The sniper's random attacks have spread fear in a wide area around Washington since a 15-hour killing spree was launched on Oct. 2 and Oct. 3 that quickly claimed five victims in the suburban neighborhoods northwest of the US capital.

Another victim was killed in Washington proper and two others in the city's southern suburbs in Virginia.

The sniper has also wounded two people: a 13-year-old schoolboy in Bowie, Maryland, northeast of Washington, and a woman in Fredericksburg, Virginia, to the south.

As the toll has mounted, fear and alarm have spread across the area with schools keeping students indoors, football games canceled and residents thinking twice before making routine trips to shopping malls or gasoline stations.

Police said they were not yet ready to give out information from witnesses on the license plate of the vehicle, which could either be a light-colored Chevrolet Astro van or a Ford Econoline van, believed to be the gunman's getaway vehicle.

Local media have variously reported that the van leaving the busy suburban shopping center about seven miles west of Washington after Monday's killing had Maryland or Virginia plates.

Police said the van has a silver ladder rack on the top, a detail consistent with the description of the vehicle sought after Friday's shooting death of a man in Virginia, and a malfunctioning left tail light.

Police released composite pictures of two white vans similar to the ones being sought, but they have so far held back from releasing a composite of the killer.

Police could not confirm local news reports that some witnesses had seen the killer get out of the van to fire and then get back in.

The sniper, who uses a high-velocity rifle to pick off random victims, has so far eluded a massive hunt by law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, with some help from the CIA. *Reuters*

Butler stole Di's dresses, court told

LONDON—In the days after the fatal car crash that killed Princess Diana, her butler removed two dresses and other personal items from her London home in a pre-dawn visit, prosecutors told a jury Tuesday.

Paul Burrell—the man Diana called "my rock"—has pleaded not guilty to three charges relating to the theft of hundreds of items from her and others in the royal family.

Burrell, 44, is accused of taking more than 300 items between Jan. 1, 1997 and June 30, 1998. The property allegedly included letters, photos, and compact discs owned by Diana, Prince Charles or their son, Prince William, at Kensington Palace, the London home of the princess.

After the Aug. 31, 1997 car crash that killed Diana, Burrell went immediately to Paris to remain at her side at La Pitie Salpetriere hospital until her family could reach her.

In his statement to police, much of it read out in court, he said it was he who was asked to dispose of the clothes Diana died in, and that he burned them.

Prosecutor William Boyce said Burrell arrived at Diana's Kensington Palace home in the early hours of one morning soon after the princess's death.

A police officer who recognized Burrell's car, "called his controller just to get things checked because the princess had died—what sort of duty was being performed at 3.30 a.m.?" Boyce said.

"Mr. Burrell came back carrying what appeared to be a mahogany-type box and put it in the rear of the car. He then disappeared again and returned with what appeared to be two evening dresses and they too went into the car."

When challenged by the police officer, Burrell replied that he was "removing some items the family have asked me to destroy," Boyce said. *AP*

Police arrest teener linked to Finland mall bombing

HELSINKI—Police said on Tuesday they had arrested a teenager suspected of aiding a shy chemistry student in making a home-made bomb that exploded in a crowded Finnish shopping mall last week, killing seven and injuring dozens.

They said the bomb had similarities to the home-made explosive used in the devastating 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, which killed 168.

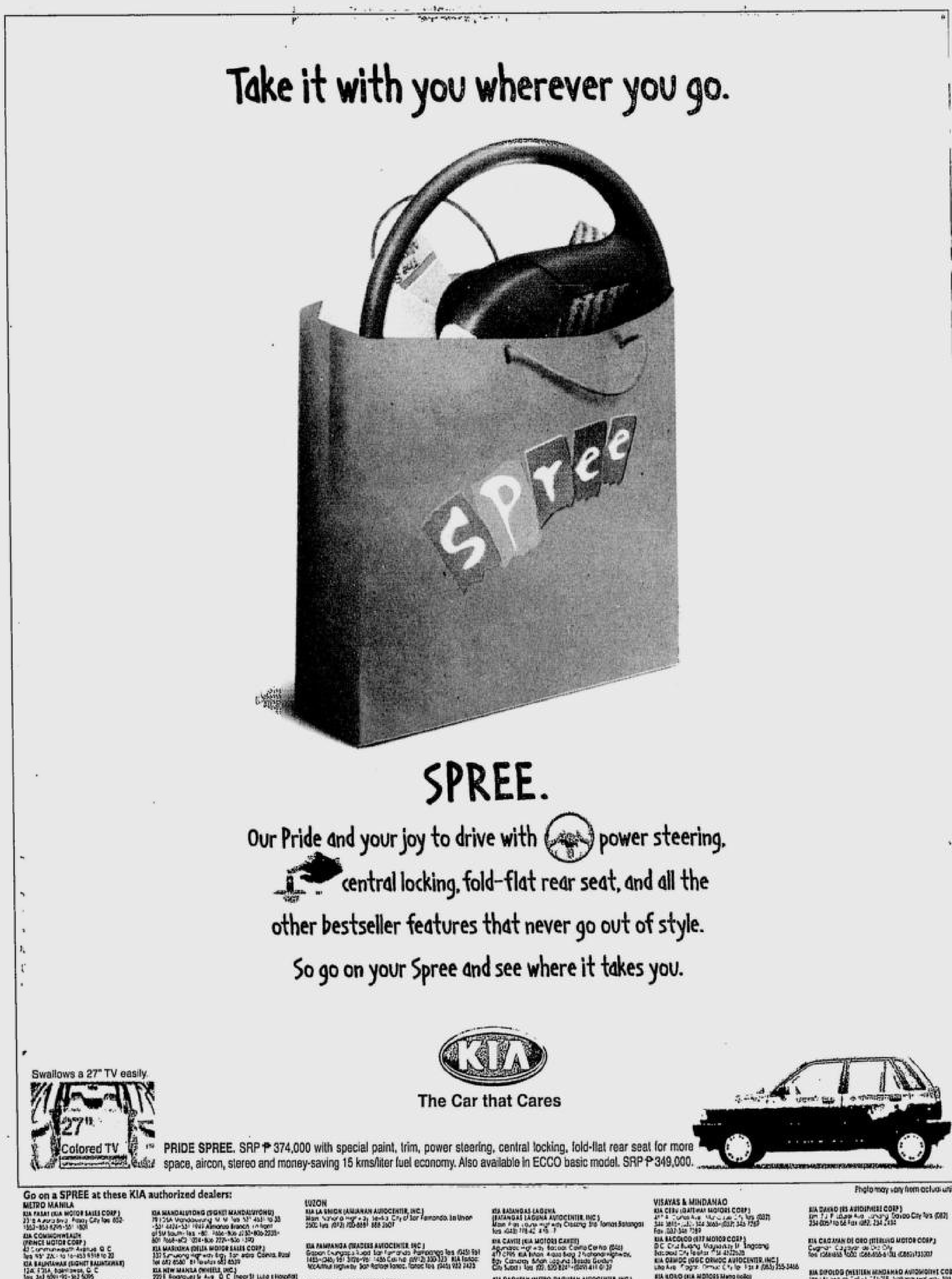
The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said they had released three Finns late on Tuesday but kept under lock a 17-year-old Internet chat room friend of the prime suspect, 19-year-old Petri Gerdt who died in the blast.

"We have released three people because we don't have enough evidence to keep them in detention. But one person is still under arrest, a 17-year-old, because he is believed to have committed the crime of serious sabotage," NBI Deputy Chief Jari Liukku said.

Police in Finland can hold suspects for several days without charge.

The high school youth is believed, among other things, to have given advice on bomb-making over the Internet to Gerdt. Liukku declined to elaborate.

The home-made explosive, weighing up to three kg and packed with metal shards, went off during peak shopping hours on Friday evening in one of Finland's largest malls in Vantaa, the quiet Helsinki middle-class suburb where Gerdt lived. *Reuters*



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Japanese abductees catch up on decades lost in Nokor

TOKYO—Five Japanese kidnapped by North Korean spies in 1978 spent their first day back in Japan getting reacquainted with their families at a Tokyo hotel, as friends and officials in their hometowns prepared Wednesday to welcome them back after nearly a quarter century.

The five—the only known survivors of at least 13 Japanese abducted in the late 1970s and early 80s—returned to Japan on Tuesday in one of the most emotional homecomings Japan has experienced in decades.

The return will only be brief, however.

They are expected to go back to North Korea after about 10 days. The abductees were also not allowed to bring their children, which their families here have said is tantamount to the North keeping the children as hostages.

The five—now all in their 40s—kept out of the public eye Wednesday, staying with their relatives and enjoying a sushi meal at the Tokyo hotel where they are spending two nights before returning to their hometowns on Thursday.

They had a great deal of catching up to do.

Two of the abductees, Kaoru Hasuike and Yukiko Okudo, were kidnapped while on a date. They got married while in North Korea and have a son and daughter.

In Obama, a small town on the central Japan coast, classmates and friends of two other abductees, Yasushi Chimura and Fukie Hamamoto, made "Welcome Home" posters and prepared to greet the couple with flowers, town official Kazuhiko Matsumi said.

Chimura and Hamamoto were engaged when they were snatched off a beach on the Japan Sea coast. They also later married in North Korea, and raised three children there.

Hitomi Soga, the fifth kidnapping victim, will return to her home on the secluded island of Sado. Soga also married in North Korea, but Japanese officials said her husband, an American listed as a deserter from the US Army, chose not to come with her. *AP*

Ivory Coast rebels promise to install interim government

BOUAKE, Ivory Coast—Ivory Coast rebel soldiers Tuesday vowed to install an eight-month interim government if they topple President Laurent Gbagbo, whose forces battled for a second day over a key town as hopes for a truce evaporated.

The Angolan ambassador to France Assuncao dos Anjos meanwhile told reporters in Paris that Luanda "vigorously denies any direct or indirect involvement" in the dragging Ivorian crisis, sparked by a military uprising on Sept. 19.

"Angola does not have troops, arms, or military equipment in Ivory Coast," he said, adding that Luanda followed a policy of "non-interference" in the internal affairs of other countries, "especially Ivory Coast."

His denial came after the rebels broke off ceasefire talks over the reported presence of Angolan troops and tanks in support of the government.

Guillaume Soro Kigbafori, secretary general of the rebels' political arm—the Ivory Coast Patriotic Movement's (MPCI)— said that the insurgents' objective was to use the transition period to prepare for "democratic, transparent and historic" presidential and legislative elections.

"We're talking about an eight-month transition because we believe that the problems, created by dubious politicians who wanted to toy with tribalism and ethnicism, are artificial. We want to work to restore unity."

He said the transitional government would be headed by a president chosen by political parties and civic groups and would comprise a "government mission" and a military committee that would ensure national security.

Army mutineers and former soldiers now control the Muslim-dominated north and center of Ivory Coast, the world's biggest cocoa producer.

They have complained of discrimination in the mainly Christian southern regions, which has produced most of the country's leaders since independence. *AFP*

Bush: US capable of waging war on Saddam, Bin Laden at same time

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush says he is confident the United States can, if need be, wage simultaneous war against Iraq and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

The recent upsurge of apparent al-Qaida attacks, in Yemen, Kuwait and Indonesia, has raised questions about whether the US has the muscle to defend against such attacks while engaging in a possible military action against Iraq.

"I think they're both equally important . . . they're both dangerous," Bush told reporters at the White House Monday before leaving for a series of campaign appearances in Michigan that night.

"We will fight, if need be, the war on terror on two fronts. We've got plenty of capacity to do so."

"There is a connection between al-Qaida and (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein," said Bush. "Iraq is part (of) the war on terror and . . . must disarm."

In Michigan, Bush said Saddam has "connections with al-Qaida . . . This is a man who, in my judgment, would like to use al-Qaida as a forward army." However Bush does not enjoy bipartisan support for his strategy.

Al Gore, vice president under former president Bill Clinton and the man Bush narrowly defeated for the White House, said last month he was "deeply concerned that the course of action that we are presently embarking upon with respect to Iraq has the potential to seriously damage our ability to win the war against terrorism."

That course of action, said Gore, could "weaken our ability to lead the world in this new century. We have other enemies, but we should focus first and foremost . . . on winning the war against terrorism."

Madeleine Albright, Clinton's secretary of state, said in an article in The New York Times last month that "it makes little sense now to focus the world's attention, and our own military, intelligence, diplomatic and financial resources, on a plan to invade Iraq instead of on al-Qaida's on-going plans to murder innocent people."

Since Congress voted him the prerogative to wage unilateral war against Iraq if the UN refuses, Bush's administration's rhetoric against Baghdad has become increasingly aggressive.

Application of the congressional resolutions, he said, would in no way detract from US capability to fight international terrorism.

"The United Nations hopefully will . . . show their strong desire to disarm Saddam, and we can . . . get him disarmed before he hurts America," said Bush. "But I'm absolutely convinced we can achieve both objectives."

Al-Qaida terrorist attacks in recent days in the Indonesian capital Jakarta and on its vacation island Bali show "that terrorism can raise its head in many different ways," said Secretary of State Colin Powell. *AFP*

SADDAM supporter. An Iraqi woman celebrates referendum results in Baghdad Oct. 16. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein won a perfect 100 percent of votes in a referendum for a new term in office, official results showed. REUTERS

No surprise: Saddam wins another term

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Saddam Hussein won another seven-year term as Iraq's president in a referendum in which he was the sole candidate, taking 100 percent of the vote, the Iraqi leader's right-hand man announced Wednesday.

All 11,445,638 of the eligible voters cast ballots, Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council that is Iraq's key decision-making body.

"This is a unique manifestation of democracy which is superior to all other forms of democracies even in these countries which are besieging Iraq and trying to suffocate it," Ibrahim said at a news conference in Baghdad, apparently referring to the United States.

The White House had dismissed the one-man race in advance, and the results seemed to bear out the criticism. To get a vote total at all—let alone a 100 percent "yes" vote—Iraqi officials would have had to gather and count millions of paper ballots, some from remote areas far from Baghdad.

"Obviously, it's not a very serious day, not a very serious vote and nobody places any credibility on it," press secretary Ari Fleischer said in Washington on Tuesday as ballots were being cast in Iraq.

Parliament members were expected to go to Saddam sometime today to administer the oath of office for the new term. Saddam has not appeared in public since Dec. 2002.

The vote was widely advertised not only as backing for Saddam but as a rebuke to the United States, which has been pressing in the United Nations Security Council for a resolution that would allow a war to topple Saddam. *AP*

Democrats bare economic agenda

WASHINGTON—Seeking to turn voter economic unease into victory in November's US congressional elections, the top Democrats in Congress on Tuesday harshly criticized President George W. Bush's economic record and unveiled their own economic-recovery agenda.

"He's had almost two years to generate a recovery. His economic team can't divert attention with out-of-touch happy talk or appeals to one or two positive economic indicators," Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, a South Dakota Democrat, said in a floor speech.

House of Representatives Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, a Missouri Democrat who is a potential presidential candidate in 2004, echoed the criticism.

"The fact is America faces a clear and present danger to the economic life of working families," Gephardt said in a speech sponsored by the liberal Economic Policy Institute.

"But all this president and the Republican House have offered is an extremist ideology of trickle-down economics and ineffective gimmick," he added.

Both accused the administration of making rosy pronouncements about the economy while ignoring rising unemployment, higher poverty rates and a faltering stock market.

Gephardt outlined a five-point plan he said would restore growth.

For the short-term, he called for a $75 billion, one-time tax rebate for working families and company investments, along with spending $125 billion for school construction, health care and to fight domestic terrorism.

For the long-term, he proposed cutting what he called "corporate welfare" by $100 billion. Gephardt urged corporate responsibility measures and pension reform measures.

He did not give great detail of the plan and it is virtually impossible that major economic legislation initiated by Democrats could pass Congress swiftly. *Reuters*

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Save vegetable industry, GMA urged

By Vincent Cabreza and Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—The fight against smuggling of imported vegetables is like the basketball contest between the Philippines and China.

Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas said the battle to stop the influx of imported vegetables is a battle that Benguet farmers cannot win. "It's like our basketball team versus China," Molintas told about 200 farmers from Benguet and Mt. Province who gathered at the vegetable trading post here on Wednesday to protest the government's importation of vegetables.

Bearing placards that read "Gloria, zero sa eleksyon (zero in the coming elections)," the farmers assailed the government for abetting the decline of the local vegetable industry when it allowed the importation of Australian vegetables.

Since July, the foreign imports have displaced Benguet vegetables from their traditional retail markets in Metro Manila, said La Trinidad Mayor Nestor Fongwan.

"When farmers lose heavily in trade, then our economy loses also," he said.

The farmers from Bauko and Tadian towns in Mt. Province joined farmers of the Benguet towns of Buguias, Bokod, Kabayan, Kapangan, Mankayan, Sablan, Tuba and Tublay for a 40-vehicle motorcade that passed through this town's main streets and around its vegetable farms.

The La Trinidad trading post froze all its transactions at 9 a.m. to allow vegetable delivery trucks to join the motorcade. Many of the trucks bore posters that criticized President Macapagal-Arroyo for the crisis that affects the region's agricultural sector.

Farmer Pedro Talsa told the assembly that the whole vegetable industry faces "the specter of escalating debts" as imported vegetables threatened the region's economy.

"We have debts with the Land Bank of the Philippines (and with commercial investors) and we will not be able to pay them off," he said.

Molintas said Ms Macapagal could still save the farmers by revising a set of tariff cuts covering the vegetable industry, which Malacañang had promised to impose next year to comply with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

By extending the tariff coverage for vegetable imports, the government would effectively subsidize the industry, Molintas said in a press conference on Tuesday.

He said under GATT, the worse has yet to come for Benguet farmers.

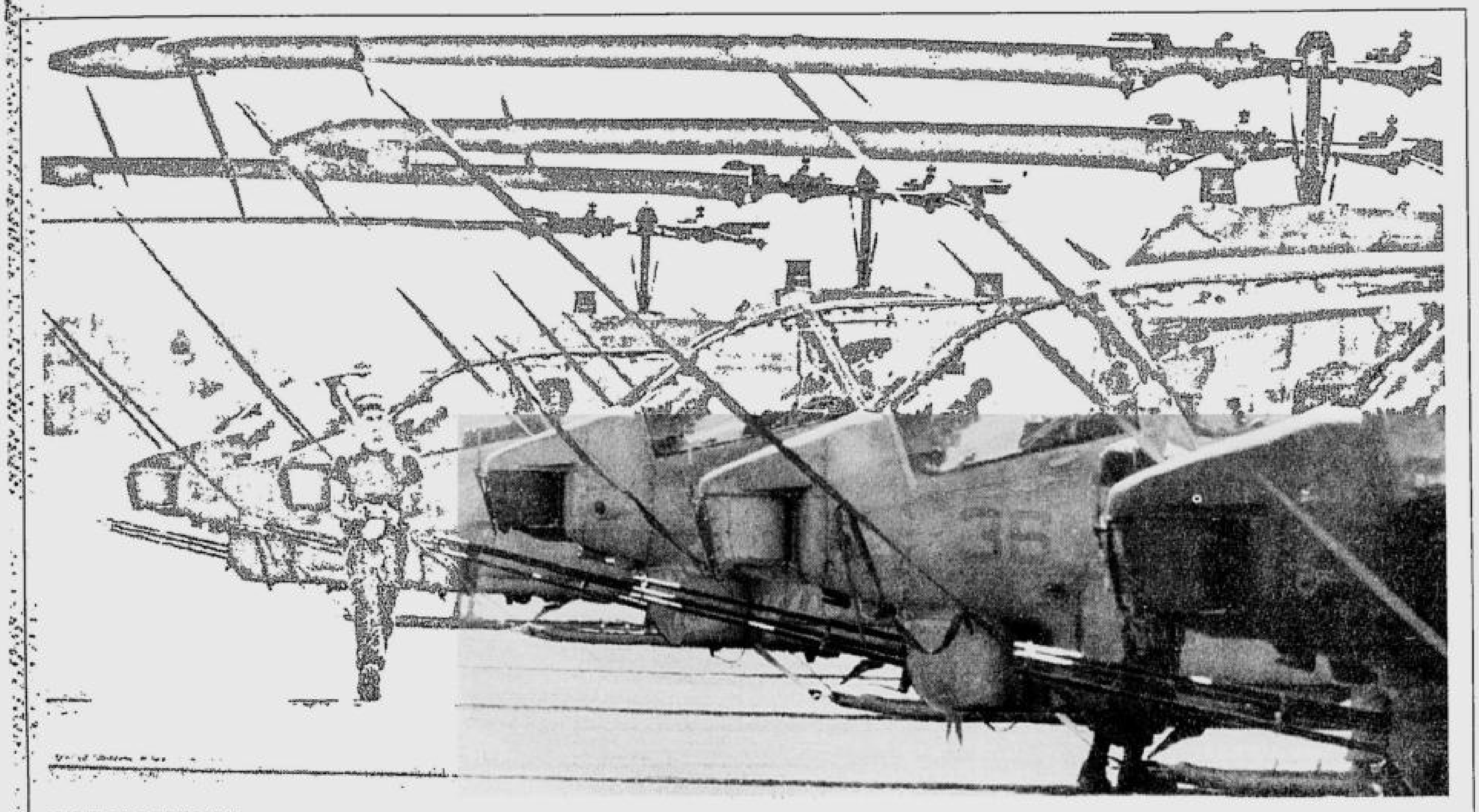
By next year, tariff rates for importers will be reduced by 5 percent, he said.

Molintas is calling for special treatment for developing countries like the Philippines to defer the full implementation of GATT by 2005 when there would be zero tariff.

"They should give us a 20-year deferment and by then we would be prepared," he said.

Mt. Province Gov. Sario Malinias said the accelerated importation between July and August was apparently reinforced by a government mechanism that automatically cleared the importation of Danish potatoes when local potatoes from the Cordillera exceeded a "trigger price" of P6 a kilogram.

The "trigger price" is the ceiling set by government to signal an under-supply of local commodities. Once local commodity prices exceed their "trigger prices," government can allow retailers to import to stabilize consumer prices, he said.



S SABANGAN

WAR MACHINES
Attack helicopters called AH1W Cobra in Clark Air Base in Pampanga are being readied for the US-RP war games.

Alleged NPA rebels rob poultry farm

MALVAR, Batangas—About 30 armed men who identified themselves as members of the New People's Army robbed a poultry farm in Barangay Bagong Pook here and took over P1 million worth of broiler chicks, farm equipment and animal health supplies on Tuesday evening.

The Barquiros Livestock Farm, owned and operated by Edwin Barquiros, was "visited" at about 9 p.m. Monday by the armed men on board a green van, a white Elf truck, and a Forward truck.

Batangas police director Sr. Supt. Rolando Lorenzo, however, doubted that the robbers were indeed members of the communist group.

"Probably they are members of an organized crime group operating in the area," he said.

Armed with short and long rifles, the men identified themselves as NPA members and at gunpoint took with them 15,000 to 17,000 broiler chicks, a generator, video compact disks and player, the farm's old airgun rifle, 225 bags of animal feeds, a cellular phone and a still undetermined amount of animal health products for the broiler chicks.

The robbers left the farm at about 4 a.m. and fled to a still unknown direction.

"It looks like those robbers are readying themselves to raise chicken," a farm helper said. "They could have taken the poultry houses, too, if they had the chance."

A farm inventory showed P1.3 million worth of robbed farm property.

Sr. Supt. Lorenzo said his men have launched a manhunt against the robbers.

In Camarines Sur, elements of the 42nd Infantry Battalion foiled a plan of NPA rebels to attack the police station of barangay Siruma on Tuesday.

Maj. Jose Broso, Southern Luzon Command spokesperson, said a resident of the town tipped off the presence of the NPA to the 42nd IB unit.

At around 8:25 a.m., the soldiers encountered about 25 rebels who were waiting at the barangay for their other comrades allegedly to regroup and launch attack at the Siruma station.

No casualty was reported on the government's side while, as claimed by Broso, an undetermined number of casualties were believed to have been suffered by the NPA.

Recovered from the scene was a M14 rifle, carbine rifle and garand rifle.

Elements of the 42nd IB are tracking down the fleeing rebels. *Mei Magsino and Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Quezon fishers hit big time fishing in bay

LUCENA CITY—Fishermen aboard 40 rigger boats with fluttering streamers and placards and sailing near the coastline in Barangay Dalahican here assailed the Quezon provincial government's inaction on the closure of the bay against big-time commercial fishing.

"What these provincial officials have been telling us is that they would first study the matter. But it's been a long time and still, no action on their part," Pedro Gonzales, head of Pamalakaya-Quezon, told newsmen.

Gonzales said they were in solidarity with all the food producers around the world in the commemoration of World Food Day.

"But our solidarity ends there," he said. "For how can the marginalized fisherfolk of Tayabas Bay and anywhere else in the Philippine seas celebrate the occasion when our catch continue to dwindle everyday?"

Gonzales said the daily net income of small fisherfolk is not even enough to sustain the basic needs of the family.

"Big-time commercial fishers rake the wealth of the sea for their selfish interest alone and for the needs of big-time commercial fish canning firm and exporters in the name of globalized trade," he said.

Order

Administrative Order No. 17 of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources disallows commercial fishing within 15 kilometers from the shoreline, in support of the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998.

It also prohibits the use of active fishing gears and fine-mesh nets in municipal waters.

But the order's intent is still an alien concept in Tayabas Bay. Big-time commercial fishers are challenging it in court, claiming that the order lacks serious study on the possible implication on the country's over-all fish supply.

Ironically, thousands of small commercial fish workers in Tayabas Bay also decry the DENR order, saying it would deprive them of their legitimate source of livelihood.

Meanwhile, fishermen from Batangas held a protest at the Philippine National Police Maritime Office.

The mobilization of peasants and fishermen in the region is part of the nationally coordinated protests led by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas and Pamalakaya to kick off their week-long commemoration of the October Peasant Week. *Delfin Mallari and Clarisse Colting, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

RP's suspected most wanted man falls

By Jani Arnaiz
PDI Visayas Bureau

SOGOD, Southern Leyte—A man suspected to be Eduardo Mationg Iran, the country's most wanted man, was arrested by elements of the Eastern Visayas Regional Intelligence Division (RJD) and the police here on Oct. 12.

The man went by the name Rogelio Guitierez, 42, but Sogod police chief Senior Insp. Rodulfo Ligutan said there were witnesses who claimed he was Iran.

Iran, 42, has been wanted since 1986 after he was linked to several murder cases,. including the brutal slaying of Antique Gov. Evelio Javier. He has four pending warrants of arrest and has a P1 million price on his head.

Chief Insp. Elmer Tagra, head of the RID who led the arresting team, however said they have yet to confirm if Guitierez and Iran is the same person. He said they were still securing from the National Bureau of Investigation a copy of Iran's fingerprint to compare it with Guitierez.

Tagra said they could also make a positive identification based on photograph since their copy of a poster of the country's most wanted man showed an almost 20-year-old photo of Iran.

Guitierez was nabbed on Saturday at his residence in Barangay Zone 5 of this town. He did not resist arrest. No gun was found when the police searched his house, with the consent of Guitierez's common-law wife, Emily Torres.

Police have kept his whereabouts under wraps. Sources here said that Guitierez would be presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo once his true identity has been confirmed.

A former reporter now living in Eastern Visayas who asked not to be named was among those who claimed that Guitierez was Iran. The former newsman said he knew Iran because he had interviewed the notorious criminal in Iloilo City sometime in the mid-1980s.

Ligutan said Guitierez was placed under surveillance for seven months after they received a tip that he could be Iran. But the dossier on Iran was only officially opened on Oct. 1 when he assumed office as the town's police chief, Ligutan said.

Government authorities had been on the hunt for Iran since he escaped from prison in Iloilo City sometime in 1986 after he was arrested for involvement in a string of kidnapping with murder, frustrated murder and attempted murder cases.

He was reported to be the leader of the dreaded Allied Forces Gang operating in Iloilo, Antique and Aklan provinces. He was also believed to be very active in several heists in Metro Manila in the company of armed former Philippine Constabulary elements.

Sogod Mayor Edmund Villa said that if it could be proved that Guitierez is Iran, the arrest could be a "surprising windfall in police work and contributed substantially to the efforts of President Macapagal Arroyo and the national government to put a stop to kidnapping for ransom."

ANTI-DROUGHT MEASURE

Cong Dadong dam starts operation

ARAYAT, Pampanga—The P3.4-billion Cong Dadong Dam, named after President Macapagal-Arroyo's father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, on Wednesday released its first volume of water to irrigate at least 5,600 hectares of farms in Pampanga.

Jesus Emmanuel Paras, head of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), switched on the valve of the dam's intake gates at 11:10 a.m.

The dam, which diverts water from the Pampanga and Rio Chico rivers, released 12 cubic meters of water per second to canals leading to farms in Arayat, Sta. Ana. San Luis, Candaba, San Simon and Apalit towns.

At least 3,700 farmers stand to benefit from the new irrigation service during the dry season until April, according to Reynaldo Mencias, project engineer of the Pampanga Delta Development Project (PDDP)-Irrigation Component, which built the Japanese-funded dam.

He said the dam would service 10,270 ha of farmland when it is fully operational.

Paras told farmers that the project "brought more honor to Cong Dadong."

It was during the late President Macapagal's term that the NIA was established after he signed in 1963 a law creating the agency.

Cong Dadong's name, each letter inscribed in silver, was set on a huge wall toward the spillway gate.

It took government engineers and Japanese consultants at least 26 years to complete the project.

At least six years, since 1996, were spent for actual construction. The previous years, starting the time of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos under whose term the project was conceived, were met with opposition from farmers.

Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions in 1991 and lahar flows in the next years further delayed the project.

But even as hundreds of farmers in Pampanga trooped to the project site in Barangay Lacquios here to witness the dam's initial operation, the project still owes about 200 displaced tenants and landowners at least P180 million in right-of-way claims.

Of the total P315 million worth of claims for agricultural and residential lands and crop damages, Mencias said the NIA had paid P141.65 million from the government's counterpart funds.

The project also owes contractors some P100 million.

Mencias assured payment, saying next year's budget had allocated P508 million for PDDP's operations and obligations.

Farmers from nearby Nueva Ecija, however, have opposed the project.

In their letters to NIA, they claimed that the dam's gates, if closed during typhoon, would force the water to spill out to low-lying areas of Nueva Ecija.

Mencias denied that water would flow back, assuring that the dam's gates would remain open.

Ms Macapagal is set to formally inaugurate the dam later this year. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Workers protest non-payment of claims by wood firm

BUTUAN CITY—Workers of the Nasipit Lumber Company (Nalco) in Agusan del Norte, who were displaced when the firm went belly up, protested the alleged non-release of their money claims amounting to about P74 million.

Rodolfo Pavolar, president of the Tungao Workers Association (TUWAS), said they decided to stage the protest after Nalco repeatedly defied a court order directing it to pay its workers.

"They should respect the court order," Pavolar said.

The protesters prevented Nalco from taking out some equipment from the company's compound in Nasipit town.

"We fear that we could not get what is lawfully ours if we allowed them to do that," Pavolar explained.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to get Nalco's side.

Nalco, which was publicly listed in 1973, was declared insolvent by a Manila Regional Trial Court on May 7 and the logging firm was ordered to sell its assets through public bidding to acquire enough funds to pay its standing debts. *Franklin A. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

No more recall elections this year, says Abalos

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Chito A. Fuentes, *PDI Visayas Bureau;* **and Ronnie Lorejo,** *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

CEBU CITY—The Commission on Elections no longer has the funds to hold recall elections this year, according to Chairman Benjamin Abalos

"While we may be approving petitions for recall, I am sorry until such a time that we have the funds, we can not schedule any elections," he said in an interview over Cebu City radio station dyLA.

He said this year's budget for recall elections was only P1 million but the amount was already spent during the recall election in Palawan.

Abalos said he was also not sure if their office could hold recall elections next year because it would depend on the availability of fund.

A recall election, he added, would only be possible at this time if the local government involved would pay for it. Abalos made the revelation amidst the passage of a recall petition by village officials against a vice mayor in Bohol.

The recall process also faces another impediment as an amendment to the election bill is being pushed in the Senate.

Senate Majority Floor Leader Loren Legarda-Leviste disclosed in a press conference in Legazpi City on Saturday the Senate's determination to push for the amendment of the election bill.

The preparatory recall assembly (PRA) is being abused by some local politicians, Legarda said citing the Comelec.

Comelec guidelines say elected local officials can be removed through a 25-percent vote and by a PRA.

A co-author of the pending Senate bill, Legarda said that aside from being abused, the PRA has cost the Comelec so much money.

"So with the limited resources of the government, and the abuse by some politicians, the spirit of fair election is not really followed," said Legarda. In the end, the people are the ones who suffer, she added.

"Imagine, even Sangguniang Kabataan officials and barangay captains, if you gather all of them, you can already gather 25 percent votes, you can already recall the mayor, the vice mayor, the councilor. We've been talking politics all year round, making us less productive," Legarda said. She said there is really a need to amend the PRA provision to lessen politicizing in the local elections.

Through Senate hearings, Comelec has complained that its budget has been depleted because of recall elections.

Comelec records show 56 recall elections have been held in the past 12 years. There are eight pending cases, including the recall move against Catanduanes Gov. Leandro Verceles, Jr.

Catanduanes Vice Gov. Cesar Sarmiento, however, countered that PRAs might be the subject of abuse, but their province is totally different from the rest since the assembly they conducted recently was composed of elected officials up to the municipal level. In most areas, the common recall initiators are the barangay chairs. He said it is the only recall election at the provincial level.

Verceles was not available for comment as of press time.

The Catanduanes governor's recall case is now at the Comelec executive director's office and is being recommended for holding on Nov. 29.

In Bohol, the stage has been set for the province's first recall petition after barangay officials of Panglao town initiated recall proceedings against Vice Mayor Doloreich Dumaluan.

The recall resolution, which was passed during a PRA on Oct. 8, cited eight reasons to push for the ouster of the vice mayor, among them habitual absenteeism, practice of profession without authority and obstructing development.

But Dumaluan denied the charges, saying he had instructed his lawyers to question the recall proceedings. He said some signatories were made to sign even before they could understand the nature of the charges.

Some of the barangay officials, he added, were ignorant and uneducated and would sign anything because of political pressure.

Reports from a local paper showed 65 of the village officials present during the PRA voted in favor of the resolution to recall Dumuluan. Thirteen reported abstained. The PRA has 90 members from the town's 10 barangays.

On allegation of absenteeism, Dumaluan said he could only remember three absences at most.

He also scoffed at the rap about practicing his profession without authority, saying Panglao Mayor Benedicto Alcala and some of his bitter critics had been among his patients on emergency occasions and wondered why he had to ask permission from the mayor to treat people.

ROUNDUP

Ex-Air Force man nabbed

DAGUPAN CITY—A dismissed Air Force sergeant and two other persons were arrested by the police in Alaminos City for possessing firearms with tampered serial numbers. Supt. Rueseto Ricaforte, group commander of the 106th Police Mobile Group in Alaminos City, said they arrested Marceliano Bumlarda, his nephew Dominador Bumlarda and Rosendo Domendon Navarro during an operation here on Friday. Ricaforte said Bumlarda could be involved in a kidnap-for-ransom group. Seized from them were an M16 Armalite rifle, three long magazines for an M16 rifle, a .45-cal. pistol, a Federal pistol 1911, a cal. 22 Magnum revolver and live bullets.

Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Jail term for killer

BAGUIO CITY—A man admitted killing the chief cashier of a university here in 2000 and was sentenced to 18 years in prison. Jayson Estoque was also ordered by Judge Ruben Ayson of the regional trial court here to pay P2 million to the family of Conrado Cada, chief cashier of Saint Louis University, for damages. Estoque admitted stabbing Cada several times on Nov. 6, 2000 at a motel room and taking the victim's jewelry worth P64,000. Estoque pleaded innocent during his arraignment in July, pleaded guilty of homicide during the first hearing on Oct. 1.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Baguio pioneers' obelisk

BAGUIO CITY—Families native to Baguio since 1955 will now have a chance to have their legacies literally etched in history. The Baguio Pioneers Heritage Society is raising funds to build a 60-foot obelisk near the University of Philippines College Baguio and the Baguio Convention Center. At the base of the Baguio Pioneers Obelisk will be a circular marble wall where the names of Baguio pioneers will be engraved. For details, contact Dr. Ronaldo Paraan (442-5942), Conrado Bueno (442-3111) and the Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation (jvofi@mozcom.com). Those in the United States may contact Francisco Paraan (eamparaan@hotmail.com), Edwin Cheng (415-885-2999) and Eliseo Aspillaga (bchsiaa@aol.com).

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Cavite police alerted

CAVITE CITY—The New People's Army is eyeing Cavite province as its next target of attack, according to Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao Jr., Cavite police director, who has ordered his men to be on double alert. Pagdilao said splinter groups of the NPA are already in the province to destabilize the government. He said the NPA's simultaneous offensives against the government have affected much the business climate nationwide.

Fausto Tatad Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Vice mayor freed

TIWI, Albay—More than 3,000 Tiwi residents staged a rally in front of the town building here on Oct. 11 questioning the release from jail of Vice Mayor Ruth Corral and a Sangguniang Bayan (SB) member. The two reportedly yielded to lawyer Antonio Betito's demand of payment for his legal service claim amounting to P21 million. Presiding Judge Lucas Bersamin of Regional Trial Court Branch 96 in Quezon City ordered the release of Corral and Councilor Jesus Consulta after they signed a manifestation of their willingness to pass an ordinance appropriating funds for Betito's legal service claim. Left detained at the provincial police camp, Tiwi Mayor Patria Gutierez and nine SB members expressed their disgust with Corral and Consulta.

Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Engineers warned

LEGAZPI CITY—Government engineers in Bicol were ordered to keep an eye on the full implementation of all projects in the region. Department of Public Works and Highways regional director Orlando Roces tasked all his 13 district engineers to closely monitor the detailed engineering up to the final payment of contractors to ensure that projects are being undertaken in accordance with the law.

Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Crux Ansata anniversary

The Crux Ansata Fraternity will have a reunion on Friday October 18, 7 p.m. at the University Pavilion, Gregorio Araneta University in Caloocan City. Brods & Sis are enjoined to contact respective chapters. For UP Tarlac Chapter Alumni contact: Bong Mendoza at (0916)460 1760 or Nap Clemente (0918)507 4743.

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INQUIRER *Southern Luzon*

Editor Jun Bandayrel • *Bureau Chief* Floreño G. Solmirano

Agta folk fight proposed metropolis

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Infanta, Quezon

FOR the indigenous people who have settled deep in the bosom of the Sierra Madre mountain ranges, life is a continuing challenge amid rustic existence. There is just enough to keep the community going.

"Take away the land from these beautiful people and you slowly choke them to death. Like Macli-ing Dulag, they will offer their lives for the preservation of their ancestral domain. Because it is their life, their existence," Bishop Julio Labayen, head of the Prelature of Infanta, said the other Sunday in a homily at the Infanta Cathedral in commemoration of Indigenous People's Day.

Labayen was referring to the Cordillera leader who was killed while leading the opposition to the Chico River dam project during the Marcos regime.

"Indigenous peoples or *katutubo* are the true sons and daughters of the Philippines," the bishop said.

Agta elders, garbed in their red tribal attire, were seated on the front pew. They listened to the showers of hosanna and silently observed the proceedings.

Their children led the offering, bringing with them fruits of the earth, such as betel nuts, native oranges and a seedling, which for them symbolize the relationship of their future to man's continuous sanctified adoration of Mother Earth.

"These people knew nothing of the square-meter concept of land ownership. For them, land is sacred and no one should selfishly take control of it," Labayen explained.

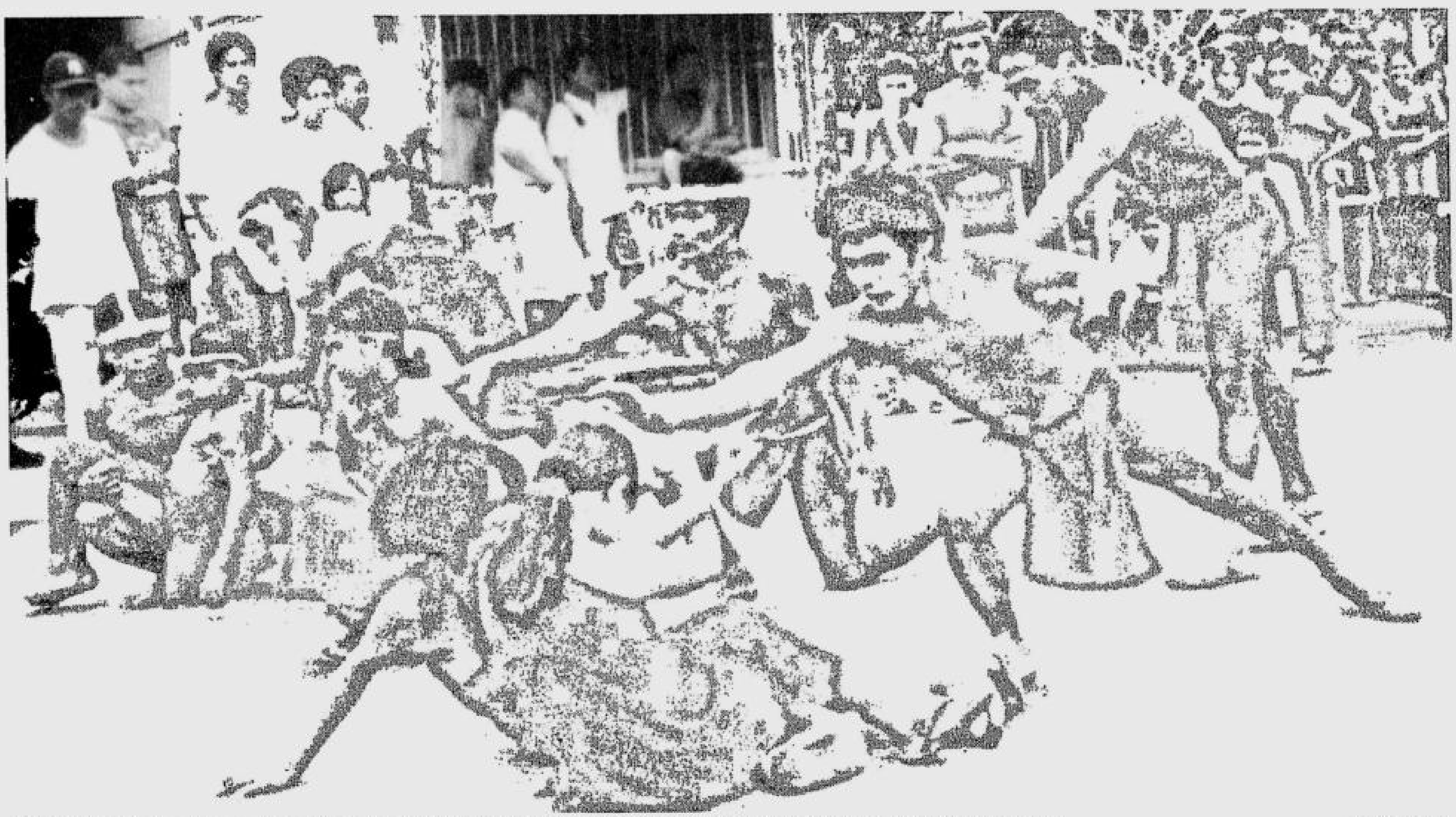
He expressed thanks to the natives for their pure and unpolluted indigenous existence. For him, the Agta "have not yet been corrupted by this system that has been globalized."

Land developer

An Agta woman pleaded to the Catholic faithful to support the struggle of her tribe against the incursion on their ancestral domain of a real estate developer, Green Circle Properties and Resources Inc., owned by one lawyer Romeo Roxas.

Remegios Rutaquio, acting president of the Adhikain ng mga Grupong Taong Katutubo na Nagtatanggol sa Lupaing Ninuno (Agta), identified the proposed project as the Pacific Coast City. The Agta members fear that the project would dispossess them of their ancestral land and drive them deeper into the mountains.

The project, to be situated in Dingalan, Aurora and General Nakar towns in Quezon, will cover at least 80,000 hectares of what the Agta communities consider their ancestral domain. It would affect large portions of agricultural land, most of which is being tended by several indigenous communities.



A TOUCHING street drama that mirrors the difficult life they live and their incessant struggle for their continued existence. DELFIN MALLARI JR.

In solidarity with the struggle, several delegations of Agta communities from as far as Aurora hiked and crossed rivers for several days, just to reach the site of the celebration on time and express their commitment.

Fr. Pete Montallana, coordinator of the Indigenous Peoples' Apostolate under the Diocese of Infanta, said 27 Agta communities found inside the 27,800-hectare area covered by the project would be affected.

"There are more communities of natives inside the 50,000 hectares of land. What will happen to them?" he asked.

BISHOP Julio Labayen is among his Agta brethren. DELFIN MALLARI JR.

He stressed that for the Agta, the right to live is synonymous to their inherent right to the land.

The massive undertaking, which has been programmed until 2020, was declared a flagship project during the administration of deposed President Estrada.

The proposed development aims to decongest Metro Manila, which is 80 kilometers away, by building a modern suburb that includes a resort, a university and industrial cities. It will also have a modern airport, pier and railways—all designed to accommodate a heavy traffic of goods and human cargoes.

Central city

The combination of diverse economies will create a central city economy, including a new capital district, which will be the site of government and corporate offices.

The main proposal is "to build a new kind of city on Luzon's Pacific coast fully embraced by the Sierra Madre mountain ranges and the Pacific Ocean."

According to company brochures, the planned city is designed to conserve the best of the existing natural environment as a long-term asset. By developing only the best sensitive portion of the land, the remaining extra sensitive areas of landscape will be preserved.

During his term, then President Fidel V. Ramos described the project as an "ambitious, laudable and most importantly, doable undertaking."

Ironically, it was Ramos who signed the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (Ipra), which is also referred to as the Ancestral Domain Law. The law recognizes, protects and promotes the rights of the indigenous peoples in the Philippines, who comprise 18 percent of the population. It also seeks to stop prejudices against tribal peoples through the recognition of certain rights over their ancestral land, and the right to live their lives in accordance with their indigenous traditions, religions and customs.

But the intent of the law is one thing and its sincere implementation another.

According to Ramsey Estuveza, an Agta youth leader, "Mr. Roxas' project is destroying the forest. We have personally seen how his men wantonly cut thousands of forest trees. The project is heavily involved in illegal logging."

He said the project employs armed guards that have kept on harassing the communities of the natives who oppose the project.

Roxas, however, during a meeting with provincial board members, argued that logging inside the forest land is legal because the land belongs to him.

The company maintained that single ownership of vast tracts of land provides an opportunity to create a model for future urban development.

Ancestral domain

Roxas pledged to respect the natives' ancestral domain. But the Agtas pointed out that what the project proponent refers to is only the 3,000 hectares of land covered by a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim.

"But how about the legitimate claim of the whole Agta tribe on the vast tract of land which is recognized under the Ipra law as valid under the principles of 'native title'?" Montallana asked.

According to reports, 27,800 hectares of the project area has been legally sold to Roxas by one Robero Gopasuy. while the big chunk of the 50,000 hectares inside the territorial jurisdiction of General Nakar was reportedly acquired by the company from one Don Mariano San Pedro.

But in a ruling, the Supreme Court nullified San Pedro's ownership of the vast estate. A case is now pending in court.

The Department of Environment and Natural resources has also reportedly issued the Roxas firm with a Special Private Land Timber License, which he now uses for logging activities.

The Agta organization called for the cancellation of the logging permit. The natives maintained that there should be proper consultations on any projects inside their ancestral domain.

"Mr. Roxas' project should be rejected by the Macapagal-Arroyo administration. Its realization would mean death to the whole Agta race in Sierra Madre," Estuveza said.

To bring their message across, some 500 Agtas, garbed in their native costumes, marched and danced in the streets of Infanta, and performed a drama that depicted their culture and pressing issues.

Albay park alive while Mayon sleeps

By Carlos Santos Gegantoca
Contributor

FOR one who wants to interact with rare animals and have a touch of nature, there is one spot near the foot of the Mayon Volcano that has drawn sustained attention and interest, and elicited thrill among park-goers, particularly children.

The Albay Park and Wildlife, situated in Lingnon Hill in Bogtong, Legazpi (near the Legazpi City airport) boasts of exotic animals that will surely excite and amuse not only residents of Albay but also those from outside the province. The first of its kind in Bicol, the park is an eco-tourism area that has attracted thousands of visitors, including foreigners.

The park project started in 1997 with a pair of deer and a pair of monkeys. The place was once a provincial nursery and a shooting range. Construction and full development took place in 1999 through the initiative of Gov. Al Francis Bichara and with the support of the entire provincial board.

Macario M. Pavia, head of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, took charge of the park's physical planning and construction. Since mid-2001, the park has been managed and maintained by the Provincial Veterinary Services under Jose H. Losa Jr., who conceptualized the project and supervised the initial works.

ALBAY PARK & WILDLIFE

FREDDIE ROSAROS

The park aims to help protect and conserve natural resources, including wildlife, for the enjoyment of present and future generations. It serves as a rescue center for injured, confiscated, donated and captured wildlife, as well as a recreational center.

Only five of the 17 hectares of land covered by the park have so far been developed. The facilities include an administration building, livestock information center, veterinary clinic, kitchen, food court, picnic grove, children's playground, comfort rooms and animal cages.

Plants will be the main feature of development in the remaining area.

75 species

At present, 347 animals belonging to 75 species are being taken care of in the park. Sixty-percent of the animals are avian, 20 percent are reptiles, and 15 percent are mammals. Twenty-one species came from other countries, while 54 species are endemic to the Philippines.

The exotic animal species are the main attraction of the park. Aside from the animal houses, it has a butterfly garden, lagoon for boating, ostrich range, crocodile pond and turtle pond.

Different species of flora are also being propagated and planted within the premises.

More facilities will be constructed, such as sites for biking and horseback riding, and drainage and lighting systems. The structures will not only provide recreation venues but also promote tourism and generate income for the province.

At the Livestock Information Center is a mini-library where stuffed and preserved animals are made available for study to researchers, students, livestock raisers and the general public.

A veterinary clinic is being established for the treatment of sick and injured animals, and provide medical assistance to walk-in animal patients.

The park has 35 personnel serving as animal caretakers, ground maintenance men, landscaper, ticket sellers, and janitors.

Influx of visitors

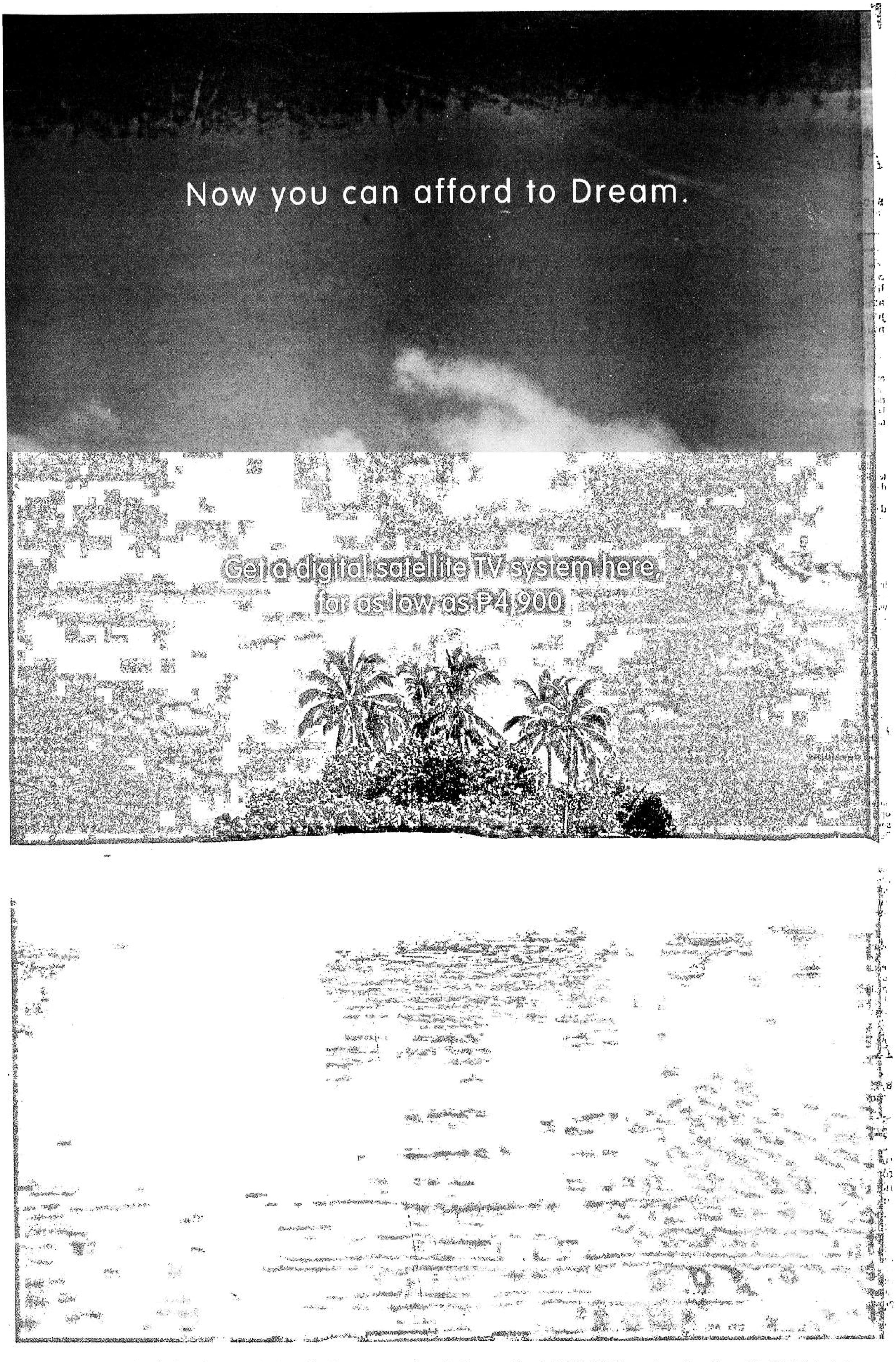
Although it has been open to the public for barely a year, the park has already accommodated more than 160,000 visitors. The influx of visitors has surged to an average of 20,000 a month.

Organized educational tours also increased in the first quarter, indicating that the park was fast becoming popular among local tour operators. Last year, the organized tours originated mostly from the neighboring provinces, some coming from as far as Metro Manila and Central and Northern Luzon.

THE ALBAY Park and Wildlife is home to wild and rare animals such as this tiger. FREDDIE ROSAROS

Adults are charged a park entrance fee of P10 each and children, P5 each. The fees generated an income of P698,905 in six months last year, and P617,995 in the first quarter this year. From January to September, the park earned P2.1 million, with an average monthly income of over P200,000.

The park attracts families who spend their get-together affairs during weekends and holidays. The boat and bike rides are worthwhile experiences for the children.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8 bombers in 2 vans staged attack, says paper

From page A1

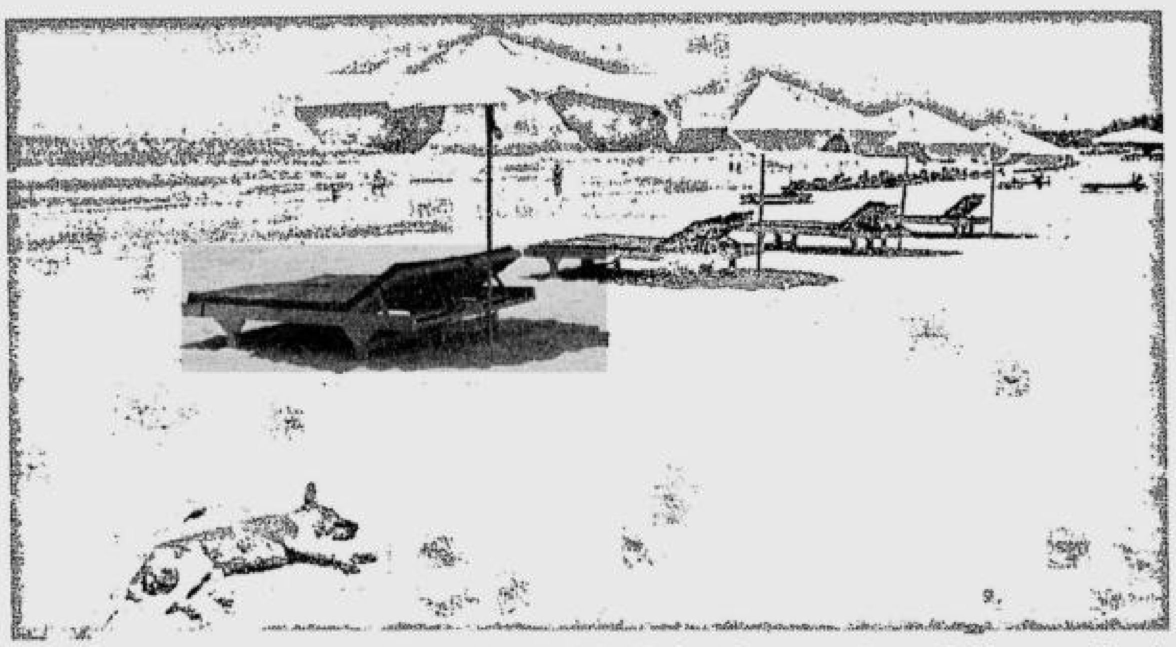
cation card was found at the blast scene, intelligence officers said on condition of anonymity.

Saaf denied a Washington Post report that a former Indonesian air force officer had admitted building the bomb.

"There is no admission of anything from a former member of the air force," he said.

"What is happening is that the police are currently questioning a former member of the air force who has the skill to assemble bombs. That is all." Saaf declined to elaborate. The state Antara news agency quoted him as saying the officer was not being detained and was being questioned because his expertise would be useful in the investigation.

National Police chief Da'i Bachtiar said investigators in Bali had questioned a witness at Paddy's bar, situated across the road from the Sari Club, who saw a man placing a white plastic bag at the scene. "When he walked up to the man, he ran away and afterwards the place exploded," Bachtiar said.



WHERE have all the tourists gone? One and a half million flock to the postcard pretty Bali last year. Travel agencies now predict a drastic decline in tourist arrivals, if at all.

AFP

C4 and gas cylinders

A source close to the inquiry said the bombers used a combination of powerful C4—a putty like plastic explosive used in the attack two years ago on the USS Cole in Yemen—and gas cylinders in an attempt to kill as many people as possible on the Indonesian resort island. Just before the main blast the attackers detonated a small bomb to bring people out into the street.

Richard C. Reid, the alleged al-Qaida-trained shoe bomber thwarted on an American Airlines flight, packed explosive that appeared to be C4 into his shoes.

The source close to the investigation described the Bali attack as "organized very professionally." He noted that C4 and the same technique was also used in a bombing in August 2000 in Jakarta which badly injured the Philippine ambassador.

In past cases in Indonesia, whenever C4 was found in any bombing it was traced to the military, raising speculation the explosive was bought or stolen from military stocks.

Asked about the newspaper report, Bali Police chief Brig. Gen. Budi Setiawan appeared to confirm it. "That is from information gathered from the joint intelligence team," he said, referring to a team linking local and national police, the military and intelligence agencies.

The information "needs to be developed," he said, declining further comment.

The two vans used in the attack had first stopped near the popular Sari Club, causing a traffic jam in the narrow main street of Kuta while clearing a space in front of them, according to Tempo.

One van was left behind and the occupants switched to the other vehicle, which sped off before the bomb blew up shortly thereafter, it said.

The blast ripped through the packed Sari Club and a bar across the road and caused a fire that blazed for hours and gutted the area.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer has described the attack as "very carefully planned" and said Indonesian investigators believed al-Qaida, possibly working with a local group such as Jemaah Islamiyah, was responsible.

President Megawati met Downer in Jakarta yesterday and the two agreed to set up a joint investigation team. Australians, Britons and Indonesians make the bulk of those killed and injured in Saturday's attack.

Laskar Jihad disbands

With Indonesia under increasing international pressure to combat terrorism, a violent Muslim group with ties to Indonesia's military disbanded Tuesday—the first apparent sign the government was getting serious about moving against Islamic extremism.

The announcement by the group, Laskar Jihad, came as the accused spiritual leader of another extremist network linked to the al-Qaida terror network said he would submit to police questioning.

Laskar Jihad's dissolution is a relatively easy way for Jakarta to show its willingness to fight terrorism, and perhaps gain ground in its efforts to restart American military aid. The group is not suspected in the Bali bombings, but putting it out of operation gives the government much-needed public relations points amid accusations it has turned a blind eye to extremist violence.

In recent months, the activities of the group, which has deep ties to Indonesia's military, have become an increasing embarrassment for authorities.

As the Bush administration pushed to reestablish ties with the Indonesian military—cut in 1999 in the wake of abuses in East Timor—Laskar Jihad's military connection was cited by congressional critics as proof the military continued to represent the main threat to Indonesia's fragile democracy.

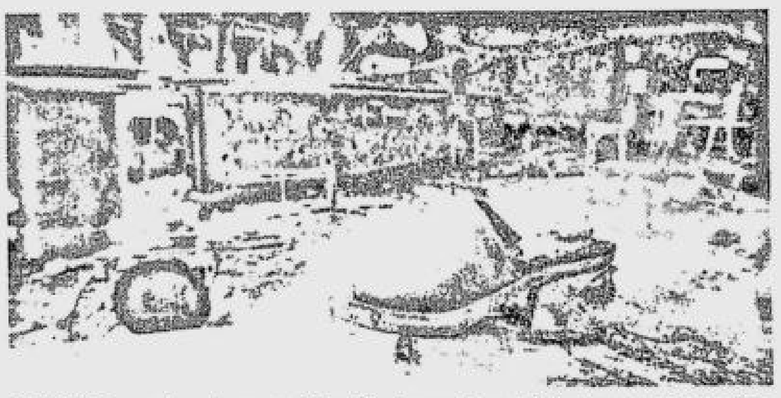
Achmad Michdan, legal adviser to Laskar Jihad, which has waged sectarian warfare against Christians on the outlying Maluku islands, told reporters in Jakarta the group was disbanding. Michdan insisted the decision was not connected to the bombing and was rooted in theological issues. "It is an internal matter," he said.

Days after the explosion ripped through the jammed Sari Club, Bali was still struggling to cope with the corpses. At the island's main hospital—now largely used as a morgue—dozens of volunteers iced down bodies or loaded them into refrigerated containers to slow decomposition in the tropical heat. On Tuesday Australia sent five refrigeration units to the resort island to preserve the decomposing bodies.

Two American deaths have been confirmed. US officials said four Americans were injured and between one and four were missing.

An Indonesian official said dental records and DNA techniques would be required to identify most bodies. "This will be a long and hard process. We are in for a long and hard time," said Australian Embassy spokesperson Kirk Coningham.

An ashen-faced Downer and Justice Minister Chris Ellison walked past the mangled wreckage of the Sari Club. Downer carried a large bouquet of flowers and Ellison a traditional Balinese wreath. Australians account for the largest single group of victims, with 22 confirmed dead and 160 missing. Up to 30 Britons are feared killed. *Reports from AP, AFP and Reuters*



PICKING up the pieces to identify charred and disintegrated remains inside a bar in Kuta Beach in Bali is about all that can be done to identify 181 victims.

REUTERS

Sorry, RP not giving apology

From page A1

acting," Baja told reporters in a chance interview at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The acting foreign secretary said the absence of a response from the Philippine government should not strain relations between the two countries. "I don't really suppose that the Malaysians should expect an apology from us," he said.

Asked to react to the Malaysian officials' pronouncements that the Philippines should have checked the 13-year-old's background before filing a diplomatic protest on her behalf, Baja said she should not have been expelled from Sabah, in the first place.

"We can also tell them that ... they should have checked first," he said. "But we have no official reaction to the statements of the prime minister and the foreign minister."

Despite that official position, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said the Malaysian government should be grateful to the Philippines for taking up Angelica's cause.

"Apologize? We did nothing wrong," Perez told reporters. "Why should we apologize ... when (they were the ones who) deported Angelica to us? They should instead thank us. Because of humanitarian reasons we (even) took up the cudgels for the oppressed."

He added: "Why are we going to apologize for the humanitarian act of bringing to the attention of Malaysian authorities the rape that was committed?"

The Philippines lodged a note verbale with the Malaysian government after confirming that Angelica was sexually attacked by immigration police while in a detention camp in Sabah.

Malaysian police later cited DNA tests purportedly showing that Angelica's father was Malaysian, making her a Malaysian citizen.

But Perez maintains that Angelica holds dual citizenship because her mother is Filipino.

'I'll see'

The Philippines and Malaysia may be able to settle matters during the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit scheduled on Oct. 26-27 in Mexico City.

President Macapagal-Arroyo will attend the Apec summit where she will have a chance to meet with Mahathir.

"I'll see," the President said. But she said there was a chance that Mahathir might not be there.

Malacañang said Tuesday that it had no comment on the statements of Syed Hamid and Mahathir, made on Monday and Tuesday, respectively.

"I think they should (apologize), because they jumped to conclusions that we raped their people," Mahathir told reporters. "You ought to be a little more sensitive and a little more cautious in making statements that can lead to souring of relations between countries."

But Perez said yesterday that if the Philippines were at fault, Malaysia should not have sent its police here last month to verify the rape complaint.

As for the diplomatic protest lodged against Malaysia, he said: "Why did they deport her to us? When Angelica was deported to us, we presumed that the Malaysian authorities verified her status first."

'Apologize to Angelica'

Lawmakers had a mouthful to say on the issue.

"Malaysia now claims that the girl is a Malaysian citizen. If we follow (Malaysian authorities') thinking without conceding that the girl is indeed Malaysian, then they should first apologize to the girl for deporting her to the Philippines," Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda said.

She said that by expelling Angelica from Sabah, "Malaysia in effect conceded that the girl is a Filipina."

Legarda urged Malaysia to pursue the case and put the rapists behind bars. She expressed agreement with Perez's earlier statement that the matter was no longer internal to Malaysia because of Angelica's dual citizenship.

"Going by (Syed Hamid's) line of thinking, it would appear that it's all right for anybody to get raped in Malaysia as long as the victim is a Malaysian citizen," Legarda added.

Sen. Manny Villar, chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations, said Mahathir should stop believing what his officials had been telling him.

"He is grossly misinformed concerning the rape of the girl. He has no clear idea of what exactly had transpired. He appears oblivious to the maltreatment of the Filipino deportees. This is something regrettable," Villar said.

He also said he had urged the government to lodge a protest concerning the maltreatment of Filipinos in Sabah detention camps but that the DFA instead protested the rape of the girl.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay said he was sure that Mahathir, being "a learned man and a leader," would pursue the case against the Malaysian police.

At the House, Deputy Speaker Gerry Salapuddin said there was no need for the Philippines to apologize because Malaysia did not apologize for the way it treated the detained Filipinos.

Bukidnon Rep. Jose Miguel Zubiri said Mahathir should in fact thank the Philippines for taking care of Angelica.

"The girl was showered with care and attention by Filipinos," Zubiri said in a statement. "She was given the best legal representation. The President became her protector." *With reports from Carlito Pablo, Cynthia D. Balana and Christine Avendaño*

Australia presses case vs Indon terror group

CANBERRA, Australia—Prime Minister John Howard said yesterday day he was confident the United Nations would support Australia's call to list Jemaah Islamiyah group as a terrorist organization.

Australia says it has mounting evidence that al-Qaida and Jemaah Islamiyah played a role in the massive bomb attack that devastated a nightclub in the Indonesian island of Bali on Saturday.

Recognizing Jemaah Islamiyah as a terrorist organization would allow Australia and other countries with similar laws to pursue supporters or financial backers of the listed group, including seizing assets and freezing bank accounts. Jemaah Islamiyah is believed to have a network throughout Southeast Asia.

Malaysia and Singapore have jailed scores of suspected Jemaah Islamiyah members accused of plotting to bomb the US Embassy and other Western targets. The group has carried out bombings in the Philippines.

Howard said Tuesday his government would move in the United Nations to recognize Jemaah Islamiyah as a terrorist organization. A number of other countries had "indicated" they would support that, he said.

"I will be staggered if the United Nations refuses to list this (group) as a terrorist organization," Howard told Brisbane radio station 4BC yesterday.

A senior government official said on condition of anonymity that the United States, Britain and the Philippines had said they would support Australia.

Prime Minister Tony Blair said Tuesday that Britain was considering a ban on Jemaah Islamiyah.

In a statement to the House of Commons, Blair said his government was "urgently" considering proscribing the group under the Terrorism Act 2000, despite the fact it was not yet certain who carried out Saturday's bombing.

"We had no specific intelligence relating to the attack in Bali," he told members of parliament as they returned from summer recess. "We do not yet know for certain who carried it out," he added.

"But we do know that there are groups of extremists active in the region, some of which have strong links to al-Qaida. These groups have worked with al-Qaida on attack plans in the past," he said. *Reports from AP and AFP*

Enrile says Meralco, First Gas overcharged consumers by ₱14B

From page A1

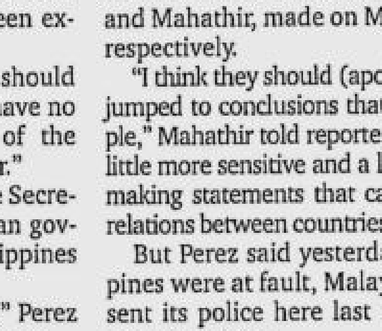
in the PPA computations that Meralco filed every month with the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), according to Enrile.

Misleading information

Jesus Francisco, Meralco president and chief operating officer, explained that the period referred to by Enrile was covered by the Letter of Agreement (LOA) between Meralco and the National Power Corp. (Napocor).

In a statement, Francisco said the LOA was signed by former Napocor President Federico Puno and himself, and witnessed by Asiclo Gonzaga, also of Napocor. It was aimed at preventing "undue increases in the cost of electricity to customers" by addressing such issues as optimum operation of the IPPs and their access to Napocor's transmission system.

Francisco said that although Sta. Rita was already in commercial operation, the LOA turned over to Napocor the dispatch of the plant as it deemed fit based on system requirements. As a result, he said, any generation of Sta. Rita for the duration of the LOA was counted as part of Napocor's deliveries to Meralco.



ENRILE: Franchise is a privilege.

"We could have saved Mr. Enrile some aggravation had he checked with us on the information," Francisco said.

He said Enrile's documents on the PPA were the same records submitted by Meralco to ERB.

Francisco also said that the computation showed that Sta. Rita delivered to Meralco 1.19 billion Kw from January to December 2000. Because of the LOA, the 952.6 million Kw generated and delivered by Sta. Rita between December 2000 and December 2001 appeared as part of Napocor deliveries, he added.

"I do not think kilowatts can be dispatched into thin air," First Gas chief executive officer Peter D. Garrucho, Jr. said in a separate statement.

"Moreover, Malampaya gas was available starting Oct. 1, 2000 and we were busy generating power during the commissioning period. Since June of 2000, Sta. Rita was always available to deliver power," Garrucho said.

"Unfortunately, Mr. Enrile takes pieces of information and documents fed to him by his obviously polluted sources and takes them as gospel truth without going into the facts and circumstances. In the vernacular, *nakuryente siya*," the First Gas CEO said.

Shut down

Enrile exposed in April 2001 that Meralco billed its consumers P914 million the previous month even if First Gas did not deliver any electricity. It turned out, he said, that what he discovered was only for the month of February 2001. He said the spurious billings were going on for 14 months and totaled P14 billion.

Enrile said it was impossible for Meralco officials to justify billing its customers when the First Gas plant was shut down to undergo retooling. The plant now uses natural gas instead of diesel.

He said that the First Gas charges were fraudulent because it did not have the capability to deliver electricity during those 14 months. "We are talking about P1 billion a month! If this is not theft or racketeering, I don't know what is," he said.

He said the situation was not the same as the "take-or-pay" scheme of Napocor in which an IPP was ready to deliver power but Napocor cannot absorb it due to excess supply.

Enrile demanded that Meralco refund the P14.7 billion plus interest to the consumers.

Probe ERC officials

While the new ERC chief might have overlooked the overcharging, Enrile said there was no excuse for the career people at the ERC to have allowed the spurious charges. He called for the investigation of ERC officials responsible for the approval of this scheme.

In a statement, acting ERC chair Leticia Ibay said her office had found no "irregularities" in the increase in Meralco's power rates over the past two months.

At a press conference after the hearing, Enrile urged Congress not to grant the request of the Lopezes for a new consolidated franchise because it needed separate legislation.

He said that all maturing franchises may be extended, not consolidated. "It is my position and the people I represent that Meralco has no right to have a new franchise because it abused and continue to abuse the people in its franchise areas," Enrile said.

"Since franchise is a privilege granted by the state, the franchisee or concessionaire has no vested right to ask for an extension if it does not fulfill its obligation to protect its customers," he said.

Enrile instead urged the government to take over Meralco to protect the consuming public and suggested that the franchise being sought by Meralco be bidded out.

At the hearing, Sen. Joker Arroyo urged Enrile to appear again tomorrow for the continuation of the hearing but he begged off, saying he has a speaking engagement at the University of the Philippines.

Enrile said he already detailed the abuses being committed by Meralco against its customers and that it was more up to Congress to pursue his exposé.

GMA fires top 3 officials of movie, TV review board

From page A1

In a press luncheon at the Palace, Ms Macapagal also announced the replacement of the MTRCB's executive director Raquel Rey with former Development Bank of the Philippines director Gabriel Ma. E. Lopez.

She said she had reappointed 17 board members.

The President said she was "leaving the position of MTRCB chair and vice chair vacant" until "the case (in the MTRCB) has been settled."

"I have appointed enough members of the board so they can transact business," she said. "One of the board members will be the officer in charge."

Dinglasan said she welcomed the President's decision and believed "that her decision was all in favor of the government."

"I'm not going to fight it because I can serve the Lord and the country in other ways," Dinglasan added.

Dinglasan had served as vice chair of the Video Regulatory Board from March 19, 2001 to May 19, 2002. On June 24, 2002, she replaced then MTRCB chair Alejandro Roces, who is now board director of the Philippine Postal Savings Bank.

Charges vs Dinglasan

The MTRCB month-long squabble against Dinglasan started when members and officers of the Employees Association filed charges before the Office of the Ombudsman on Sept. 4 against their chair.

The charges included grave abuse of authority and usurpation of the functions of the board, threats, unauthorized use of a government vehicle, nepotism, the unnecessary hiring of a law firm as legal consultant, falsification of documents and the arbitrary use of confidential and intelligence funds of the MTRCB.

The MTRCB employees also discovered several estafa cases involving Dinglasan and her husband. Late last month, agents of the National Bureau of Investigation were to serve an arrest warrant. But before she could be arrested, she posted bail.

Dinglasan, in turn, asked the National Bureau of Investigation on Sept. 24 to investigate irregularities that, she said, several officers and employees of the MTRCB had committed.

Rey, who will be replaced by DBP's Lopez, was at the MTRCB office yesterday afternoon when the INQUIRER reached her on the telephone. She sounded surprised when told about the President's announcement.

"I have not yet received a copy of the letter that Malacañang distributed to the media today," Rey said. "Since we are the people involved, the letter should have been given to us first."

Rey said she would not protest her recall but added that, "this does not mean I will stop fighting Dinglasan in court."

Dinglasan had filed before the Department of Justice last Sept. 26 charges of bribery and graft and corruption against Rey, chief administrative officer Susan Bandolin, a construction company and its architect in connection with the unfinished renovation of the old MTRCB office in San Juan.

Reappointments

The President released the names of 17 reappointed board members whose terms of office will expire on Sept. 30, 2003.

A memorandum signed by presidential legal counsel Avelino Cruz Jr. listed them as Msgr. Nico Bautista, Rev. Antonio Sayson Jr., movie directors Emmanuel Borlaza, Jose Romero IV and Mario Hernando, actresses Pinky Amador and Jacqueline Aquino-Gavino.

Journalists Edmund Sicam, Mara Alano and Alfred Yuson, lawyers Dennis Manicad and Eric Henry Joseph Mallonga, cinematographer Jaime Bengzon, Benedicto Ternate Sr., Teresita Daza (wife of Samar Gov. Raul Daza) and former Philippine National Bank director Maria Consoliza Laguardia were also reappointed to the board.

The President is still evaluating the qualifications of 13 others to fill up the remaining positions in the board.

Another Marcos son?

From page A1

counterfeit—were seized in a raid Tuesday night on the home of a man claiming to be a son of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

Supt. Christopher Laxa, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Central Luzon, said Demetrio Garcia used the alias "Percival Marcos" in business transactions and claimed to have gotten his huge cache from the dictator.

Garcia was arrested during the raid, along with four men identified as Sonny Catolico, Eduardo Bacala, Rolando David and Lorenzo Marin.

Laxa said the bonds contained in six sealed metal boxes with the markings "Seal of Federal Reserve, United States of America" were turned over yesterday to the US Embassy for authentication.

He said that it was a certain Ambassador Benjamin Domingo who valued the contents of the boxes at "a trillion dollars," and that Domingo presented himself as Garcia's counsel.

Laxa said Garcia, a native of Lubao, Pampanga, described himself as an investor who had just arrived from Hong Kong where he completed some transactions.

Garcia also bragged about attending several reunions of the Marcos family, Laxa said.

But the spokesperson of the dictator's son, Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr., said he did not know Garcia or anyone called "Percival Marcos."

"I don't know anybody by that name," said Lito Gorospe. "It doesn't ring a bell. He's probably using the same ploy (used by) the other supposed Marcos son who was arrested in New York."

Gorospe added: "Everybody wants to be a son of Marcos these days."

Gold bar

In a report to CIDG director Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, Laxa said the raid on Garcia's house in Villasol Subdivision at Barangay Anonas in Angeles City also produced a laminated frame of various certificates of US Federal Reserve bonds, a gold bar, a bundle of bill-sized paper with transparent markings of $100, and assorted contracts and certificates of deposits supposedly issued by banks in the United States, Indonesia, Switzerland and Yugoslavia.

The raiders likewise confiscated two 9mm pistols, bullets and gun holsters.

Judge Napoleon Sta. Romana of Nueva Ecija issued the search warrant for the raid.

According to Laxa, Domingo stopped police intelligence operatives from opening the boxes by invoking the confidentiality provisions in several certificates held by the bond redeemer, supposedly Garcia.

Laxa also quoted US Embassy officials as saying that National Bureau of Investigation agents had been on the case but lost the trail.

He said that while the bonds were kept in boxes with the purported official seal, dollar counterfeit syndicates generally used ordinary boxes in storing bills and treasury certificates.

Laxa also said a certain Boyet de la Cruz, who claimed to be a staff member of Pampanga Gov. Manuel Lapid, had tried to intercede for Garcia.

But Lapid denied knowing De la Cruz and said his name was being used. *With a report from Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Dante Ang buys a bank

From page A1

been kept from the public. Ang is also the owner of The Manila Times and Kabayan Publishing.

Six branches

BankWise, a medium-sized thrift lender with four branches in Metro Manila and one each in Cebu and Davao, is controlled by Seed Capital Inc., which bought 60 percent of the bank from Wise Corp.

BankWise used to be known as Bank Dharmala, an Indonesian firm.

Seed Capital is controlled by Bobby Guevarra, who asked Ang to help raise P250 million to buy the 60-percent stake.

Ang said he raised 20 percent of the amount. He said the group paid in tranches and the last set of P50 million was paid to Wise Corp. in June.

Wise Corp. is owned by Rene Francisco, the bank's former chair, who also controls the Professional Educational Plan. Other owners are Tony Ortigas, Vic Campa and Jose Esteban.

Before the entry of Ang's group, BankWise had about P700 million of loans extended to directors, officers, shareholders and related interests or the so-called Dosri.

The former majority owners apparently violated the Dosri policy of the Bangko Sentral, which provides that banks should extend no more than 20 percent of unimpaired capital to Dosri accounts.

Ang said BankWise's paid-up capital is now P575 million, up from P325 million before the entry of Seed Capital.

He added that the bank was negotiating with the BSP to accept some P1 billion worth of assets BankWise had foreclosed as part of the bank's attempt to raise additional capital.

Ang said the BSP approved the rehabilitation of BankWise on the condition that a fresh P250 million in equity would be infused. He said the conditional approval was also given provided that BankWise would retain Larry Madera as president even after the sale to Seed Capital.

Ang said BankWise is still looking for a new president.

Last July, Ang told the Sunday Inquirer Magazine that he had only one public relations client, the President, whom he serves free of charge.

"I don't get paid," he said then. "What for? If I accepted, how much should my fee be?"

Born in Las Piñas, the eldest of seven children, Ang saw his family's fortunes collapse after his Chinese father was disowned by his family for marrying a Filipina. He has since made his mark as a trader and businessman. And now, he's a banker, too.

PUBLIC relations man couldn't get any wiser. PDI PHOTO

Tiglao back to man GMA war room

From page A1

post as the President's spokesperson.

"That was the idea from the start," he said.

Left and right sides

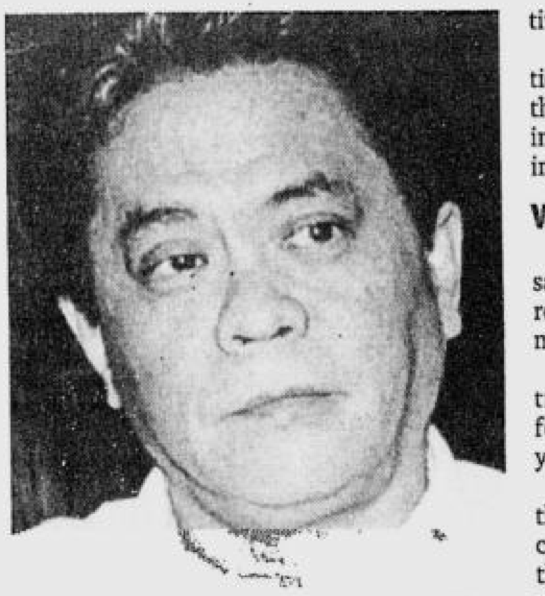
By Ms Macapagal's own description, the Malacañang war room will have two aspects: a right side that will deal with military and security matters and a left side that will "address the breeding ground" of insurgency, terrorism and other peace and order problems.

The President said military persons will "track" the security side while Tiglao will be on top of "reforms . . . the lack of which makes communities vulnerable to communism."

She said Tiglao will be assisted by Renato Velasco, director general of the Public Information Agency.

The "right side" of the war room will be manned by Col. Charlie Holganza of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission.

Ms Macapagal said she will appoint another official with a Cabinet rank to head the secretariat that will keep the war room "strategically" on top of what is happening in the country. She declined to identify her prospective appointee.



RIGOBERTO TIGLAO: From the tranquility of Kyoto to Palace wars.

"Because of the security and crime situation, I think it's important for me to attend to them personally," the President said, explaining the importance of setting up a war room in the Palace.

Win hearts and minds

In a briefing later in the afternoon, Bunye said Tiglao's added responsibility in the war room was basically "winning the hearts and minds" of the people.

"It also involves giving out information and conducting projects" in areas affected by insurgency and terrorism, Bunye said.

"There are two aspects of the operation: the right, being the stronger arm method, to combat terror and crime and the left to win the hearts and minds of the people," Bunye said.

Bunye said Ms Macapagal, being a hands-on executive, wants to monitor developments right inside the Palace instead of going to Camp Aguinaldo where the military is based.

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TABANG MINDANAW
INQUIRER

Top Abu set to surrender

From page A1

willing to go to jail and face charges.

No amnesty

Sali said Abaya should send officials to Basilan to make sure that he would not be harmed once he turned himself in.

"We should discuss my surrender here in Basilan," Sali said.

He said he does not want to be granted amnesty for his crimes, but the military should halt operations in Basilan.

"The civilians here can't work peacefully because they are afraid of the soldiers," he said.

Sali, along with four other Abu Sayyaf leaders, had planned and carried out the kidnapping of 20 tourists and resort workers from Palawan last year, including three Americans.

Sali said he wants to help the government solve the Muslim insurgency in Basilan upon his surrender, but did not say how he planned to do it.

Outgoing AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion said the military welcomed Sali's surrender but added that it should be without conditions.

His remarks came amid reports that Carolina was relieved as Southcom chief because of "credit-grabbing" concerning Sali's surrender.

There was also a supposed "rift" between Army chief Maj. Gen. Dionisio Santiago and Carolina, which contributed to Carolina's relief.

But spokesperson Lt. Col. Danilo Servando said there couldn't have been any "credit-grabbing" as the intelligence team worked under the direction of Carolina himself.

He added that the reassignment was not a case of "saving face" as the desire to neutralize Abu Sayyaf leaders was borne out of an official task, not a desire to deliver on a "personal promise."

THEY who love much grieve much. Brenda Cabrela, mother of slain PFC Alberto Cabrela, is inconsolable even with the President by her side. ERIK ARAZAS

Promotion, demotion

At a luncheon with reporters, the President said Carolina's designation as deputy chief of staff was a promotion. She also stressed that Abaya's new post was not a demotion.

Ms Macapagal said she had "felt so bad" for Carolina when published reports attributed his relief to the two recent bombings in Mindanao and setbacks suffered by the military in the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf.

But she said it was actually another reason, Carolina's turning 55 years old this Friday, that determined his new appointment.

"The law says that you cannot promote (an officer) in the last year (before the mandatory retirement age of 56), so he has only until Oct. 18 to be promoted to the board of generals, which is the deputy chief of staff," she said. "That's a promotion."

As for Abaya, the President said his appointment as Southcom chief could not be classified as a demotion because "he's very young."

Ms Macapagal said Abaya would turn 55 only in November 2003 and therefore can be assigned to any position until that time.

Abaya is said to be the President's choice for what she earlier described as a "long-term" AFP chief of staff.

"So Abaya can be moved anywhere until November 2003 but Carolina can't be moved after Oct. 18," she said.

AFP chief replacement?

In the Senate, the President's remarks on Abaya were echoed by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, who said Abaya would likely replace Gen. Benjamin Defensor as Armed Forces chief. "It's true that Abaya is being groomed and being considered for the (top) AFP post," Magsaysay said.

He also said Abaya would likely succeed Defensor when the AFP chief retires next month.

He noted that Abaya "is a combat-tested soldier" and has extensive experience in Mindanao.

"We've been hit, there's been a lot of encounters in Mindanao and there have been quite a lot of casualties," Magsaysay said in a press briefing.

Magsaysay said Carolina was "pulled out based on a decision-making judgment."

Don't fool people

But a former AFP chief, opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chided the military for trying to justify the relief of Carolina as a promotion.

"Justifying the release of Carolina by saying that this is a promotion cannot fool the people because being an area commander is a more privileged and challenging position than that of the deputy chief of staff," Biazon said.

INCOMING, soon-to-be-outgoing Chief of Staff Benjamin Defensor is sworn into office by President Macapagal on Wednesday while his wife looks on.

Meanwhile, the AFP yesterday released a statement saying that members of the powerful Commission on Appointments had come out in support of a proposal to extend Defensor's term.

The press statement issued by the AFP public information office also stated that Defensor was "too good" to serve only for 69 days.

"The members cited that the current AFP chief is too good to be given the short end. They expressed the concern that the country would be losing the expertise of a top military performer and commander should Defensor be allowed to retire earlier," the statement read.

GMA scoffs

If approved, the proposal would mean that Defensor would be given an additional extension of service from one to three years.

But the President scoffed at the reported joint resolution by the bicameral Commission on Appointments seeking to extend Defensor's term to the full three-year tour of duty.

"To begin with, all of these things are the prerogative of the President," she said. "It (the term of AFP chief) can even be for one day."

The President said that there was a similar bid made by CA members in the case of former AFP chief General Roy Cimatu but she did not accede to it.

"They also did the same thing to Cimatu. You know if you keep a general for too long, you are telling the rest of them (generals) that you are not good enough," she said.

In Congress, Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran said he was elated that Carolina was removed from his current post, saying that the general's attitude "revealed the worse qualities that characterize the military: arrogance and misplaced self-confidence." *With reports from Rocky Nazareno and Christine Avendaño; AP, AFP*

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13. Prizes may be claimed at the nearest Cebu Pacific organic ticket offices within 60 days from notification. In the Philippines: Manila Midtown Hotel Ticket Office, Hypermart Head Office, Robinsons Galleria Ticket Office, NAIA Ticket Booth, Cebu Airport Ticket Office, Cebu Midtown Hotel Ticket Office, Bacolod Airport Ticket Office. In Singapore, The Amara.
14. Trips must be flown on or before March 05, 2003.
15. Winners must present registered mail together with any of the following valid ID with picture: School ID, Company ID, TIN Card, SSS Card, Credit card, or Passport
16. All travels are not valid during embargo dates: Oct 30 to Nov 04 (All Saint's Day), Dec 15-24 (Christmas) & Jan 30 to Feb 4, 2003 (Chinese New Year)

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FIRST GENTLEMAN'S GOLF

La'O, Cuello, Dizon share lead

By Jong Arcano

THERE'S more to the pretty face seen on the television commercials and Cookie La'O's solid showing in his professional debut is proving that.

The 28-year-old La'O, one of the new kids on the block out to give the veterans a run for their money, fired an eagle-spiked two-under-par 70 yesterday to grab a share of the lead with Marlon Dizon and Rodolfo Cuello in the First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit's kick-off leg.

Teeing off from the back nine, La'O scored the eagle–an eight-foot putt set up by a 5-iron second shot–on the par-5 eighth of the Sta. Elena course just in time to move past Dizon and Cuello and for the upperhand.

Dizon, the solo first round leader who is taking his baptism of fire in the pro ranks, scored a two-over 74 and allowed his former national teammate La'O and Cuello, a ball-bashing hulk out to recover lost opportunities.

Cuello, younger brother of the eminent Rodrigo who is currently playing the Macau Open together with three other name players, shot a 71, one of the five turned in on a day of improved scoring from the 25 players who survived the second round cut.

With similar 54-hole totals of 144, the three were just a stroke ahead of Armando Eso and Tony Lascuna, who shot a 73 and 74, respectively. Elmer Salvador, shooting a 74, was another stroke back at 146.

Cassius Casas is not among the 25 pros who will vie for the big slices of the P500,000 pot put up by the First Gentleman Foundation. He shot a second consecutive 77 and Edwin Estrera (80-153) bumped him off for the last slot.

La'O, who is seen on the commercials of a diaper and insurance company, said he feels confident with his overall game and is hoping his putting touch stays until the final day.

"The battle will be decided on the greens so the mission is to really putt consistently well the whole week," said La'O, who decided to waive his Busan Asian Games slot to prepare for his stint in the pro qualifying.

"The hardwork is paying off for me since I'm hitting the ball quite well. I'm just glad to be in contention after two days, I hope to keep playing well the next two days," said La'O.

Dizon paid his dues at the tough holes which he conquered in a pacesetting round of 70 yesterday. Starting from the backside, he had bogeys on the 11th, 13th, fourth and sixth against bogeys on the ninth and first.

Mars Pucay, the club bet, shot a 75 and was tied for seventh while Richard Sinfuego, among the pre-event favorites, was among those who tied for the last seven spots at 153.

LA'O: Solid show. PDI PHOTO

Gerald heads golfest cast at Riviera

GERALD Rosales will head the field competing in the 1st Annual TaylorMade adidas Golf Cup on Dec. 13 at the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Cavite.

"This tournament is TaylorMade's way of thanking its supporters," TMaG business unit manager Ernest Paguia said.

The golfest also forms part of celebrations for the launching of TaylorMade's newest line of clubs, the R500 series. Launched during the recent Golf Development Association of the Philippines' International Golf Show at the SM Mega Trade Hall, the R500 series is set to blaze a trail in the game again, following the steps of the successful R300 series.

To be participated in by loyal TaylorMade patrons and golf enthusiasts, the tournament would be a veritable gathering of golf aficionados in the country.

Aside from Rosales, now ranked 48th in the Asian PGA Tour, the 18-hole tournament is also expected to attract showbiz personalities and leaders in the business community. The tournament is a precursor of similar tournaments to be held by other TaylorMade subsidiaries in other countries in Southeast Asia starting 2003.

Proceeds from the tournament would be used as "seed fund" for the development of golf at the grassroots level. "We believe in investing in our country's greatest resource–its youth. Through Jungolf, we wish to contribute to the development of the Filipino youth into world-class golfers because we believe young Filipino athletes have great potentials in this sport, as displayed by Dorothy Delasin and Jennifer Rosales in the LPGA," added Paguia.

Interested participants may call April Gemora at 938-58888 local 303 for more details.

Other backers of the meet are the Philippine Airlines, BMW Philippines, IBM Philippines, Canon, Absolute Mineral Water, OOCL, Casino Filipino, Godiva, Samsung, Riviera Golf and Country Club and Golfer's Club.

Bonds poses big problem for Angels

By Ronald Blum
AP Sportswriter

ANAHEIM, California--Everywhere the Anaheim Angels go, the question is the same: Pitch to Barry Bonds or walk him?

Listening to the talk Tuesday at Edison Field, it seems the Angels will be playing only against Bonds in the World Series, trying to devise a plan to somehow beat him, 25 on 1.

"The last two seasons, he's had the most incredible seasons in the history of baseball, if you look at all his numbers and all the microstatistics," Anaheim manager Mike Scioscia said.

Of course, San Francisco will have 25 players on the roster when the first all wild-card World Series opens Saturday night (Sunday morning in Manila). But Bonds is the focus, which puts Scott Schoeneweis in the spotlight. Bonds is 1-for-7 against the left-hander with four strikeouts, no walks and no home runs.

"The best-case scenario is to get the guys out before Barry comes up," Schoeneweis said.

And with no one on base, there's a good chance Bonds will be walked.

Bonds was walked a record 198 times during the season—and scored on just 34 of them, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. Following his record 68 intentional walks, he scored just three times.

Of course, 79 of his walks came with two outs.

"The guys that faced the guy every day, all the time, year in, year out, they all seemed to do the same thing," Angels pitching coach Bud Black said. "I don't think that they're all wrong."

Still, his gut feeling was Anaheim would pitch most of the time to Bonds, who has four homers and 10 RBIs in the postseason.

In addition to Schoeneweis—Anaheim's only lefty reliever—Bonds has faced just three other pitchers on Anaheim's roster: He's 4-for-7 with two homers, two walks and a strikeout against Kevin Appier; 0-for-1 against right-handed reliever Ben Weber; and 0-for-1 with three walks and no strikeouts against Troy Percival.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. May's Magic 2. Patutina 3. Overland 4. Aprey's Choice
Race 2--1. Armee's Hope 2. Roman Dance
Race 3--1. Fearless Vixen 2. Lady Attila 3. Lady Magllanes 4. Zero Gravity 5. Batang Cabu
Race 4--1. Lucky Strike 2. Trall Blazer 3. Howard Huge
Race 5--1. Vhingget 2. Rama 3. Medal's Slew 4. Princess Dancer 5. True Diplomat
Race 6--1. Zenie's Pride 2. Roman Empire 3. Chances Are
Race 7--1. Arrivederci 2. Ounce of Gold 3. Top Dancer/Pen Tristram 4. High Typhoon 5. Sexy Royal
Race 8--1. Ready Aim Fire 2. Front Page 3. Michael's Way 4. Winning Streak 5. Brenda Starr
Race 9--1. Profit Margin 2. Silver Dollar 3. Prince Armstrong 4. Hitman/D Barrister 5. Nevada Rhum

TENNIS MASTERS

Qualifier, Srichaphan post upsets

By Stephan Nasstrom
AP Sportswriter

MADRID, Spain--Qualifier Agustin Calleri pulled off the biggest upset at the inaugural Tennis Masters Madrid on Wednesday morning, stunning third-seed Marat Safin 7-6 (6), 7-6 (5) in a second-round match.

It was one of the biggest wins for the 26-year-old Argentine, who had to play two weekend qualifying matches to get into the main draw.

Calleri rallied from a 4-0 deficit to win the first-set tiebreak 8-6, clinching it on his first set point with a sizzling straight backhand passer down the line.

The big Russian trailed 4-1 in the second tiebreak but clawed back to 5-5, only to lose the next two points with Safin's forehand sailing out long on match point.

Safin was visibly upset with his performance during the last part of the match, throwing his racket several times on the court.

The match lasted 2 hours, 7 minutes and ended just before 2 a.m. local time with only a few dozen fans still at the Rockodromo center court.

Calleri was ranked 59th on the ATP Champions Race coming into the Madrid tournament. This year, he has made one final, in his home country in Buenos Aires.

Earlier, Carlos Moya saved a match point in the second set against Fernando Gonzalez before squeezing into the third round.

Moya, seeded No. 8 in Spain's biggest tournament ever, won 2-6, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (4) at the Pabellon de Cristal.

Another Spanish favorite, fifth-seeded Juan Carlos Ferrero, was also extended to three sets, outlasting Finnish lefty Jarkko Nieminen 6-3, 6-7 (6), 7-5 in a match that lasted 2 hours, 41 minutes.

SRICHAPHAN rejoices after ousting Kuerten. REUTERS

Nieminen, who broke through a year ago when he reached the Stockholm Open final, blew four break points at 5-5 in the third set. Then, serving to stay in the match, he dropped his serve to love.

Sebastien Grosjean, the No. 7 seed from France, also advanced to the third round when Xavier Malisse of Belgium was forced to retire because of a wrist injury when trailing 5-1 in the opening set.

Paradorn Srichaphan of Thailand caused a mild upset when he beat former world No. 1 Gustavo Kuerten 6-4, 6-4 in a first-round match.

Paradorn, winner at Long Island, New York, before the U.S. Open and a finalist in two other minor tournaments this year, will meet No. 4 seed Tim Henman next. Henman outplayed Paradorn when they met last month in a British Davis Cup win over Thailand.

Kuerten, a wild-card entry here and a losing finalist last week in Lyon, France, has no chance of making the season-ending Masters Cup in Shanghai next month. The Brazilian underwent right hip surgery late February and was sidelined for more than two months.

Kim wins again

ZURICH, Switzerland--Fresh off her title in Filderstadt, a runny-nosed Kim Clijsters continued her winning ways Tuesday, defeating Czech Daja Bedanova 7-5, 6-2 in the opening round of the US$1,224,000 Swisscom Challenge.

Earlier, American qualifier Alexandra Stevenson countered 11 double faults with 10 aces to oust Japan's Ai Sugiyama 6-3, 6-4 while seventh-seeded Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia eliminated compatriot Janette Husarova 7-6 (5), 6-1.

'RACE FOR LIFE' WINNER

Rep. Harry Angping (3rd District, Manila) awards the House of Representatives Cup to Dave Gaspar, representing horse owner Nicomedes Cruz, following the victory of Doña Gelay in one of the featured stakes races of the "Race for Life" project of the Congressional Spouses Foundation at the Manila Jockey Club. Also shown (from left) are Mrs. Louie Locsin, Mrs. Nikki Teodoro, event co-chairperson Mrs. Naida Angping, and Mrs. Vicki Ablan.

SUPERBIKE SERIES

Jao guns for 6th Expert crown

DEFENDING champion Jolet Jao of Shell Advance-Rolex Engineering is all set to capture his sixth crown in seven years as he guns for the Expert title of the Shell Advance Superbike Series of the Casino Filipino Grand Prix on Oct. 19-20 at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

All Jao has to do is finish the remaining three rounds in this event sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sport and Safety Association (NAMSSA) and sponsored by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association (BRCA) Board of Governors, Pilipinas Shell, Toyota Motors Phil., Casino Filipino, MOF Shipping, Norkis-Yamaha, Marlboro, and Kilton Motors Corporation.

His win in the last leg hiked his total series points to 216, enough to virtually assure him of the plum.

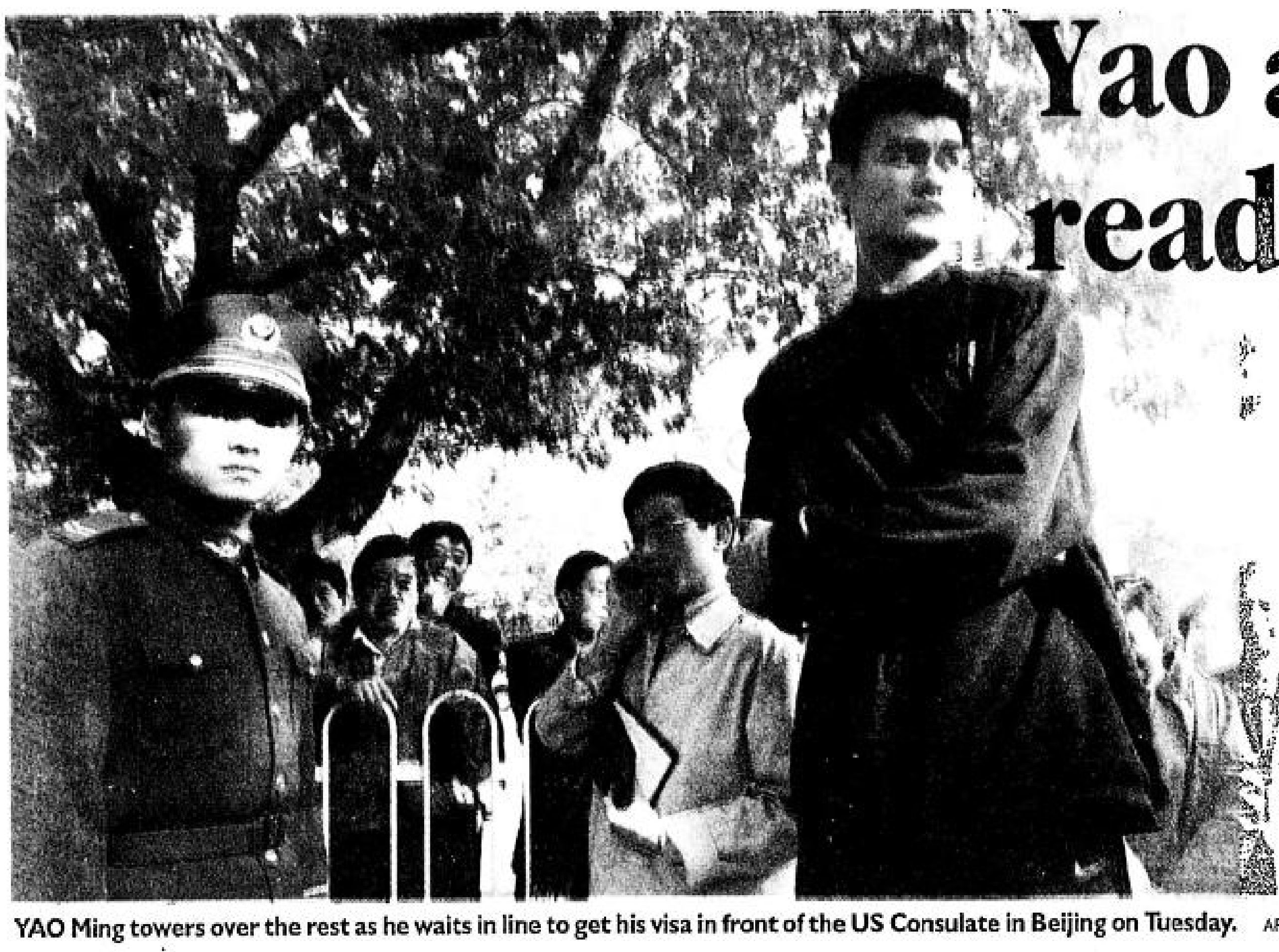
But much of the focus in this weekend's race will be on the tough battle between Toti Alberto of Access Plus-Ducati Manila and Rod Scott of RS Racing for the runner-up crown.

Alberto is second overall with 161 points but even a slight miscalculation could reverse the tide in favor of Scott who's third overall with 133.

Joining the fray are Jeff Andres of JA Rapid Bike Racing (106), Randy Ortiz of RC Car Exchange (90), Wacky "The Superwoman" Rosario of Petron Blaze-Metzeler (86), privateers Jose Reyes IV (65) and Rey Relativo (55), Ryan Thomas and Victor Velasquez.

In the Novice division, Petron Blaze protege Julian Goitia hopes to fortify his bid for top rookie honors against Nikki Romero of Club 2C and Jade Lazaro of AJRL.

Joining them in the hunt for the title are Kiko Roco of Shell-Yamaha, Alex Perez of Crotch Rocket, Maite Villegas of Petron Blaze, privateer Jeffrey Chan, Ricky Montelibano of 221 Cycleworks, Caret Mapa, Luv-luv Tioseco and Chris Borillo.



YAO Ming towers over the rest as he waits in line to get his visa in front of the US Consulate in Beijing on Tuesday. AFP

Yao awaiting release, ready to join Rockets

BEIJING—China's NBA top draft pick Yao Ming said Wednesday that he could leave the country to join up with the Houston Rockets as early as the start of next week.

"The 21st (of October) would be the soonest I could leave, as long as I get my visa," Yao told AFP as he stood in the visa queue outside the US consulate in Beijing.

"I've got to get the visa first," he said.

The giant center–who at 2.26 meters (7 ft 5 in) cut a distinctive figure in the queue–refused to discuss the issue of his return from the NBA for national team duty, one of the major sticking points of his move.

However he did jokingly promise to deal personally with Wang Zhizhi, another Chinese NBA player whose refusal to return from the United States to play for China's national side almost put Yao's departure in jeopardy.

"I'll beat him to death," he said, laughing, using a common Chinese phrase roughly equivalent to "I'll kick his ass" in American parlance.

Yao declined to say anything more, concentrating instead on signing autographs for Chinese guards outside the consulate.

On Monday, the China Basketball Association (CBA) said it would give Yao the final release he needs to join the NBA's Houston Rockets, as well as allowing fellow Chinese star Menke Batere to play for the San Antonio Spurs.

"Basically, everything is taken cared of," said CBA commissioner Xin Lancheng at the Asian Games in Busan, South Korea.

"We just have a few more procedures we have to go through. After those procedures are over, both Batere and Yao Ming can go. It's a question of the release. All we have to do is sign it and fax it to them (the teams)." In June, the Rockets made Yao, 22, the first player from outside the United States selected with the top pick in the NBA Draft. *AFP*

Shaquille overdoes it, hurting again

SHAQ

EL SEGUNDO, California—Los Angeles Lakers center Shaquille O'Neal did too much at practice and is hurting again.

O'Neal had not been given clearance to do much on his surgically repaired right big toe, but he jumped on the treadmill before practice Monday and did some light jogging.

After practice Tuesday, he said the bottom of his foot was bothering him.

"I wasn't supposed to do that," the Lakers' center said.

O'Neal said the soreness is nothing serious and that he is scheduled to meet with his podiatrist on Wednesday.

Although he hasn't been able to play, O'Neal has been in a good mood this preseason, joking and laughing. Last season, when he was in pain most of the time with toe problems, he was sometimes grumpy.

His teammates have noticed the difference now.

"I think the team definitely feeds off the mood of Shaquille," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "That's pretty normal."

The Lakers still don't have a timetable for O'Neal's return, but he might miss at least the first week of the season.

He has watched his teammates go 1-2 in the exhibition season.

"We're playing well," Kobe Bryant said. "As far as playing without Shaq, we just go in there and do our best, do what we do. We don't really change much. We just lock it down defensively and win games." *AP*

LA owner collapses at fund-raiser

LOS ANGELES—Los Angeles Lakers owner Jerry Buss collapsed and was rushed to a hospital after apparently tearing a neck muscle while attending a fund-raising dinner Tuesday night.

Buss, 69, was in stable condition at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and was expected to be released within a few hours. Hospital spokesman Johnny Hagerman declined to release any other details on Buss' condition.

"He turned his head really quickly and either tore or partially tore a muscle in his neck," team spokesman John Black said.

Black added that the pain was so severe that Buss put his head down between his legs, prompting panicked guests to call for paramedics.

Buss was at the Carousel of Hope Ball in Beverly Hills when he collapsed at about 10 p.m. Black said Buss was conscious as he was taken away by ambulance.

CNN's Larry King said he was sitting across from Buss when the owner was injured while blues musician B.B. King was performing.

"I looked down and suddenly he turned white and sort of keeled over," King told KCAL-TV. "Oprah Winfrey and I and others started jumping up, trying to get him to stop playing and get some attention for Dr. Buss, who was obviously in big trouble. I mean he had turned total white."

King said two doctors at the ball rushed to Buss' aid and emergency crews arrived soon after.

"Then they got him on the stretcher and brought him out here," King said as he stood outside the party. *AP*

13 Days to NBA Opening on Oct. 30. Did you know that 13 points is the NBA Playoffs record for most points scored by an individual in overtime? Clyde Drexler of the Portland Trailblazers did it in 1992 against the LA Lakers in the Western Conference Finals

NBA PRE-SEASON

Jefferson, Kidd power Nets over Celts

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—Richard Jefferson and Jason Kidd helped New Jersey open a 21-point lead early in the third quarter, and the Nets used an inside advantage to beat the Boston Celtics 104-92 in a preseason game Tuesday night.

Jefferson and Lucious Harris has 14 points apiece, and Kidd and Rodney Rogers added 12 each as the Nets (3-0) beat the Celtics (2-1) in their first meeting since New Jersey took Boston in six games in the Eastern Conference finals.

Paul Pierce had 21 points and eight rebounds for the Celtics, who struggled inside handling Dikembe Mutombo. He had 11 rebounds in leading a 55-40 advantage on the boards for New Jersey.

The Celtics also sustained a couple of injuries. Center Tony Battie bruised his knee and forward Vin Baker sprained an ankle in the third quarter. Neither returned, although the team said the injuries were not considered serious.

In Columbus, Ohio, Vince Carter scored 19 points, and Jelani McCoy added 18 as the Toronto Raptors beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 93-76 in an exhibition game.

Alvin Williams added 10 for the Raptors (1-3), who outscored the Cavs 32-12 in the third quarter to turn a two-point deficit into a 74-56 lead.

Ricky Davis led Cleveland with 13 points and Darius Miles had 12 — all in the first half. Zydrunas Ilgauskas also scored 12 for the Cavs (0-3), the only team without a victory in the preseason.

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, rookie Mehmet Okur led a balanced attack with 14 points and 10 rebounds as the Detroit Pistons overcame a 37-point performance by Dirk Nowitzki and beat the Dallas Mavericks 106-102 in an NBA exhibition game.

The Pistons (3-0) had six players in double figures, including Chucky Atkins with 16 points and Richard Hamilton with 15.

Nick Van Exel added 14 points for Dallas (2-2), which played without head coach Don Nelson, who didn't make the trip because of back spasms. The Mavericks were missing players Michael Finley (knee), Popeye Jones (ankle) and Tariq Abdul-Wahad (knee). Donnie Nelson coached the team in his father's absence.

In Minneapolis, Kevin Garnett scored 27 points as the Minnesota Timberwolves beat the Chicago Bulls 127-101 in an exhibition game.

Garnett dominated the Bulls' young front line, making 12-of-15 from the field and adding nine assists and eight rebounds in 29 minutes. *AP*

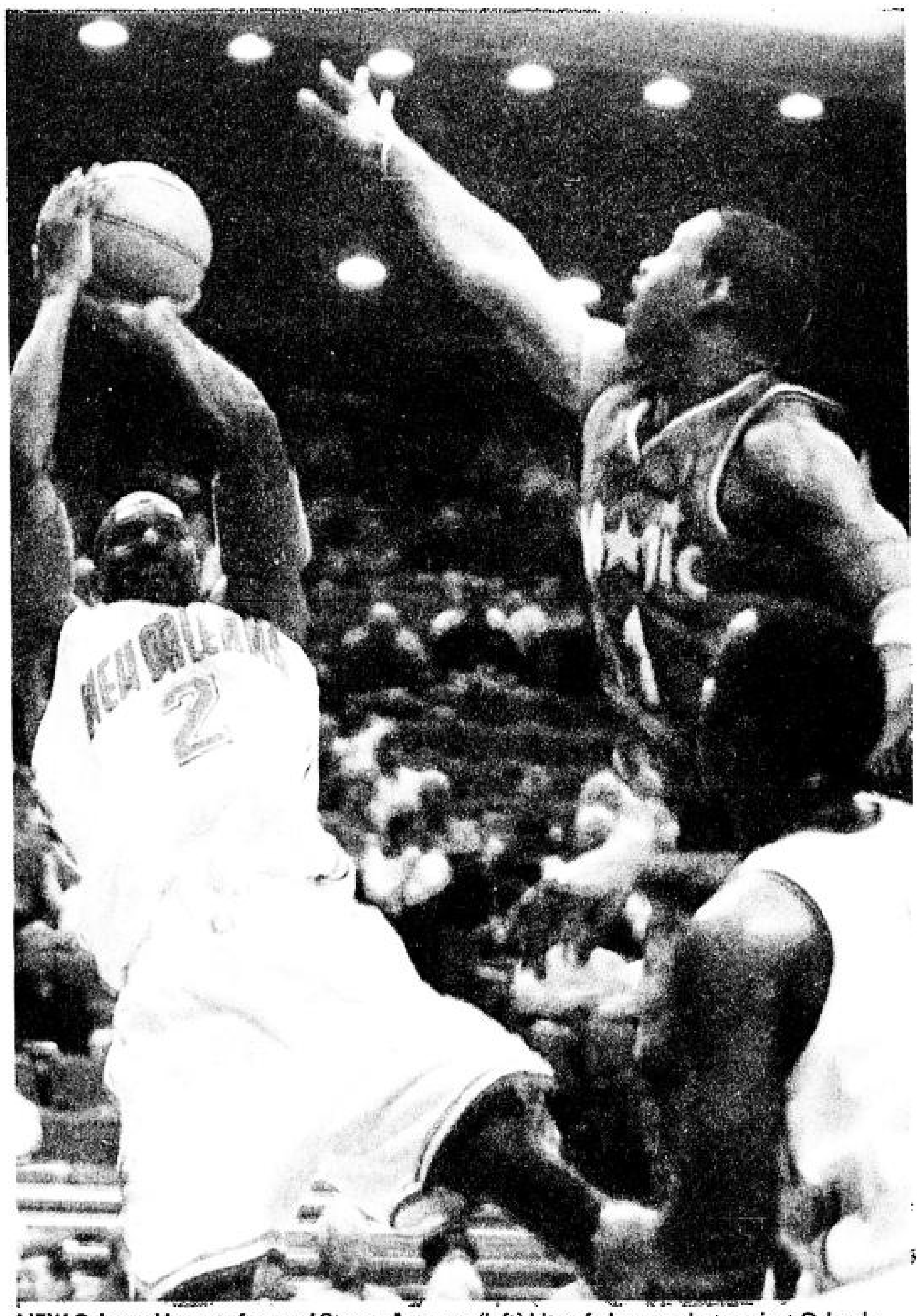
McDyess surgery set

NEW YORK—New York Knicks forward Antonio McDyess was scheduled to undergo surgery on his fractured kneecap Wednesday.

New York general manager Scott Layden talked to Andy Miller, McDyess' agent, on Tuesday and was told the player got second and third opinions that confirmed the original diagnosis of a fracture, Knicks spokesman Joe Favorito said.

The surgery was to be performed in New York by Dr. Norman Scott.

McDyess went down clutching his left knee after dunking with 1:55 remaining last Saturday night in an exhibition loss to Phoenix. *AP*



NEW Orleans Hornets forward Stacey Augmon (left) hits a fadeaway shot against Orlando Magic's Tracy McGrady during the first half of their preseason game Tuesday. The Magic won, 103-90.
AP

'Deep Fritz' whips Kramnik, evens match

MANAMA, Bahrain—The computer Deep Fritz clobbered the world chess champion in the sixth game of their million-dollar match here Tuesday, inflicting a second defeat in a row on Vladimir Kramnik.

The German-built machine's victory evened the score in the "Brains in Bahrain" tournament to 3-3. The match consists of eight games played at the rate of 40 moves in two hours, followed by 16 moves in one hour.

In Tuesday's game, Deep Fritz played Black and chose the Queen's Indian Defense. The game followed one of the most well-trodden paths in recent years until Kramnik's 13th move took it down a side road.

Black's 16th move was a novelty. English grandmaster Julian Hodgson then assessed the position as "clearly better for White. Black's bishop on a6 is the worst minor piece on the board."

But Kramnik consumed a lot of time, spending 43 minutes on his 17th move alone.

On move 19, Kramnik shocked everyone by sacrificing a knight on f7, instead of playing the continuation, which observers said would have preserved his large advantage.

The sacrifice gave Kramnik a strong attack, but it led to just the type of complications at which computers excel, as they can examine millions of positions per second.

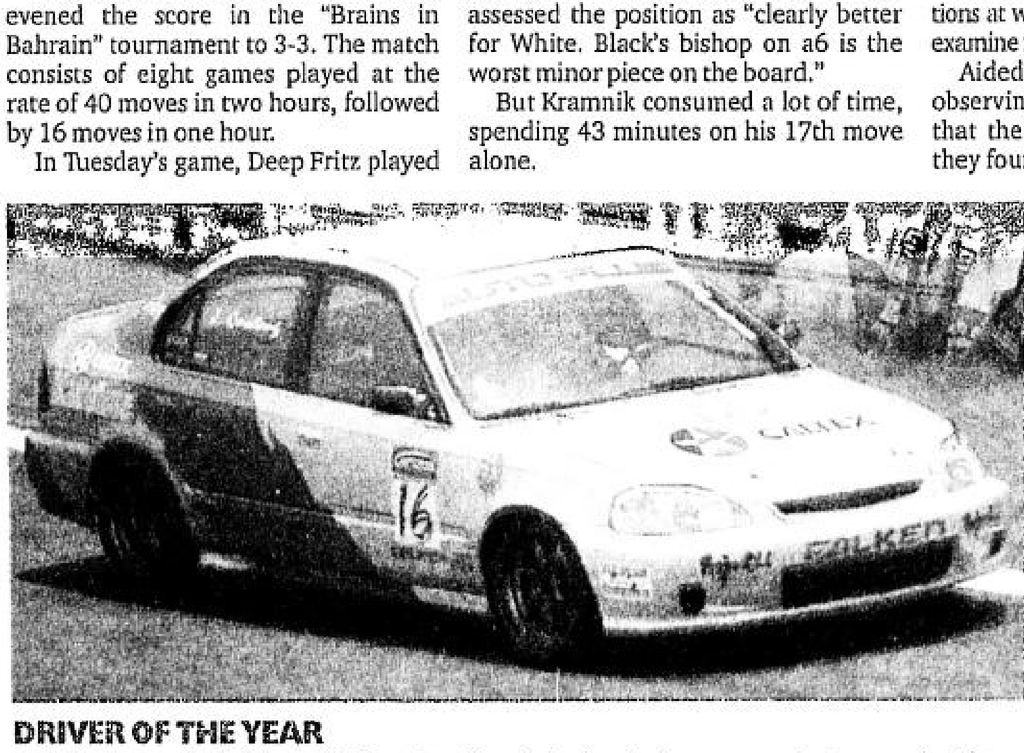
Aided by their own computers, the observing grandmasters at first thought that the attack was insufficient before they found a drawing variation.

"But it requires Kramnik to find about seven perfect moves in a row," Hodgson said.

On move 27, Kramnik checked on the wrong square and the observers gave him little hope of winning. By then, Kramnik had only ten minutes for ten moves.

Kramnik resigned on his 35th move.

This match is being billed as a rematch of the 1997 match in which, Deep Blue, an IBM computer, defeated then world champion Garry Kasparov in a match. *AP*



DRIVER OF THE YEAR

Jody Coseteng, lead driver of Caltex Havoline-Autoplus, is shown en route to sweeping the Philippine National Touring Car crown and Driver of the Year award recently at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas. The event formally ends with the final leg on Oct. 26-27.

'Sir Vincent' derby tonight at Mandaluyong Coliseum

BIG-TIME cockfighting action resumes at 6 tonight when Mandaluyong Coliseum presents the 5th Ucap Sir Vincent 7-Stag Derby championship round. Backing up the event are sponsors Sagupaan Super Feeds, Pagcor and Washout Shampoo of Lakpue Drug Inc.

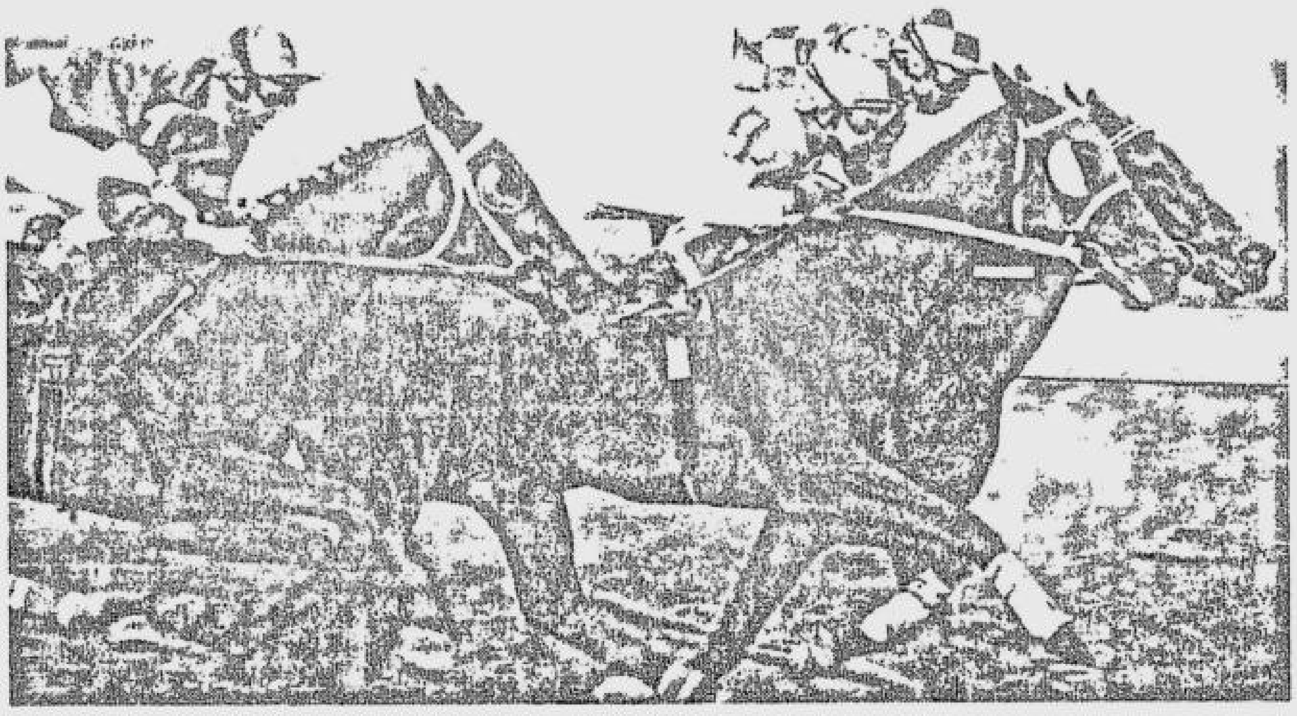
Last Tuesday, a total of 36 participants competed in the eliminations but only three managed to score perfect scores of three points each. They are derby host and OPMI president Vic Yu (King Boxer), Sandy Javier (Purple Haze F-68 Piva) and Otic Geroso (Concierto).

With 2.5 points are hotelier Biboy Enriquez (Firebird I), a strong contender in the Ucap Stagfighter of the Year 2002 race, and John Capinpin (J-Cap).

Meanwhile, four days of non-stop action fires off at the Mandaluyong Coliseum next week, via the "LGBA Stag Series 6-Stag Derby" on Oct. 21 and 23 (Monday and Wednesday) and "6th Ucap LCC Leonard 7-Stag Derby" on Oct. 22 and 24 with Louie Cua as host. Call 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

GOLDEN BALLET'S LOSS

Philracom probes star jockey today



GOLDEN Ballet (3), handled by Jonathan B. Hernandez, in action. PDI PHOTO

By Edwin Villanueva

STAR jockey Jonathan B. Hernandez is in hot water.

Only recently, Hernandez was in the spotlight when he piloted Golden Ballet to an impressive win in the 3rd Philtobo-Mitra Cup Championships.

But Hernandez lost atop the same horse in a "questionable way" last Saturday (Oct. 12), prompting the Philippine Racing Commission to summon him today to shed light on the matter.

DILAG

Hernandez, the regular rider of Golden Ballet, is scheduled to meet the Philracom board headed by chairman Jaime Dilag at 11 a.m. at the racing agency's headquarters in Makati City.

"The move to conduct an investigation of Hernandez regarding Golden Ballet's surprise loss was requested by commissioner Roger Tandiama and the board immediately upheld his request," said Dilag.

Aside from Dilag and Tandiama, Hernandez is also set to air his side before Commissioners Eduardo Domingo Jr., Vergel Cruz, Eduardo Jose, Felizardo Sevilla Jr., and Francis Trillana.

"We want Hernandez to explain to us clearly why Golden Ballet lost in that race," said Dilag. "Again, the interest of the betting public is at stake here and we would like to assure racing fans that we at the Philracom are always vigilant in protecting that."

Golden Ballet, last year's outstanding juvenile galloper, was beaten by longshot Cat's Bells in a Race for Life Cup event (Race 12) at San Lazaro last Saturday, eliciting howls of protests from thousands of racing fans.

"That loss was indeed questionable. Hernandez has a lot of explaining to do," said a horseowner, who requested anonymity.

The setback also came exactly a week back when the horse won the 3rd Philtobo-Mitra Cup Three-Year-Old Fillies Championship in impressive fashion.

Golden Ballet is owned by businessman Lamberto "Jun" Almeda and trained by Teodorico Basco, Hernandez's grandfather.

Hernandez, one of the country's top five jockeys, was also at the center of controversy last year when Silver Story was suspended after scoring a sweep in the Triple Crown series.

Nat'l dancesport tilt Oct. 19

BUHAIN

GARCIA

IN A fitting prelude to the Asia Pacific tournament here next month, the Dancesport Council of the Philippines will be staging the 6th national championships at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 19, at the Philsports Arena in Pasig City.

Arriving to conduct workshops, adjudicate and perform a demonstration of the five Latin dances are many-time undefeated world professional Latin champions Jukka Haapalainen and Sirpa Suutari of London. Also due are international licensed adjudicators Scott Todd of Hong Kong, Mary Yeh, president of the Chinese Taipeh Dancesport Association and Suey Ming-ou of Taiwan; Naoharu Sawada, Japan's Latin champion; and Milan Spanik of Slovakia.

Dance athletes from all over the country will be competing in the juvenile, junior, youth, one-dance, two-dance, pro-am senior, pre-amateur, amateur and ten-dance categories in both Standard and Latin disciplines, said DSCP president Becky Garcia, who is co-chair of the Asia Pacific dancefest with Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain.

The blue-ribbon affair will be sponsored by the PSC, Philippine Olympic Committee, PCSO, Pagcor, Philippine Air Lines, Edsa Shangri-La, Dance Exchange, Pagoda Philippines, Carlines Transportation and ABC 5.

For more information, call Anna Faye at 635-0116, Dancesport Training Center, Philsports complex, Pasig City; or Ruby at 752-0435 to 36, 26th floor Pacific Star Building on Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, where tickets are also available.

Assisting Ms Garcia, who has been president since 1996 of DSCP, the only amateur body for dance recognized by the POC, are board members Noel Laman, chair; Jun Herrera, vice president; Jo Saliva, secretary general; Gloria Alcala, treasurer; Andy Fornier, Marvie Cojuangco Yulo, Prof. Naomi Enriquez, Tonet Lagdamaeo, Gen. Sonny Yan, Ruby Co, Emma Nieto, Chona Mercado and Joel Ocsena.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Mapua beat San Beda, 91-90, to bag its second NCAA senior basketball crown at the Ultra. Also today in 1995, the Philippines' Blu Boys defeated Indonesia, 6-3, to rule the Asean men's softball championship for the seventh straight time in Singapore.

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Junior Golfer League meet on tap

THE JUNIOR Golfer League (TJGL) is staging its inaugural junior golf open tournament on Oct. 27-28 at the Eastridge Golf Club in Binangonan, Rizal.

Open to classes A to E (boys and girls), the two-day event sponsored by All Seasons Manpower Int'l. Services Inc., MX Technology Corporation, Automated Technology Philippines, Aurotech, Casino Filipino, PCSO (Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office), GMV Corporation, Shipley Asia Limited – Philippines Representative Office, CEM Machinery Pte Ltd./Tritronics Technology Phils., Inc. and Inter-tool Precision Phils. features aggregate scoring for medal honors.

The accompanying one-day regular men's and ladies' tournament will likewise be played on Monday, Oct. 28.

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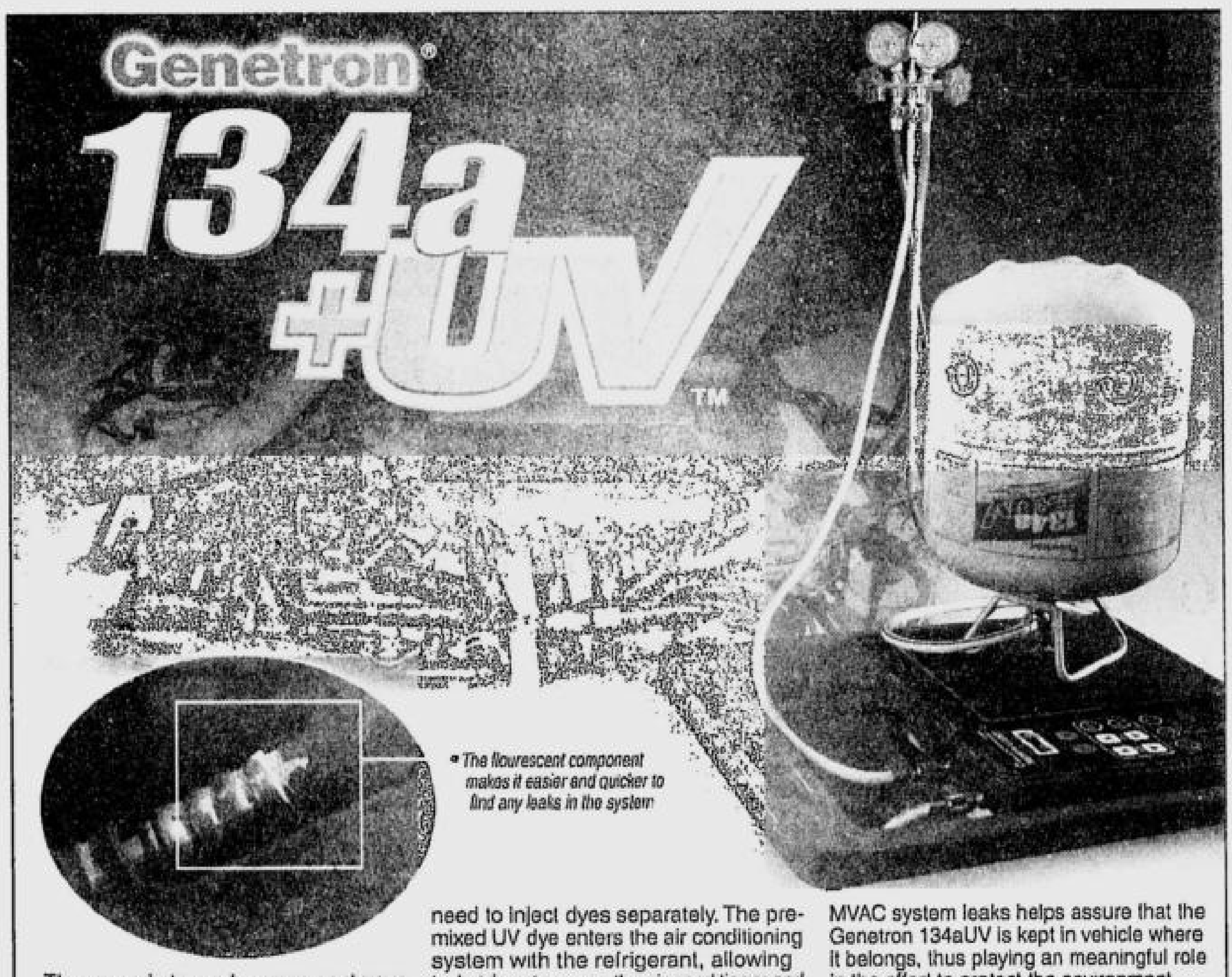
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In fact, Genetron 134aUV is all you need for a one step process, where no time is wasted measuring and injecting dye. Traditionally, UV dye has been manually injected into the system making it an inefficient and messy process that usually ends up with dye on clothing, skin, or the vehicle. Other conventional methods of leak detection such as the electronic leak detection have also proved difficult and time consuming. With UV dye formula pre-mixed in Genetron134aUV, leak detecting is a snap and several time consuming steps are eliminated. Both time and labor is saved by eliminating the need to inject dyes separately. The premixed UV dye enters the air conditioning system with the refrigerant, allowing technicians to re-gas the air-conditioner and check for leaks in one easy step.

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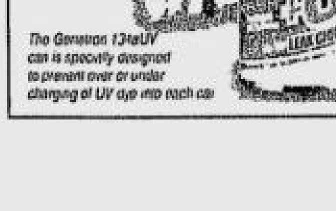
When service technicians have difficulty finding leaks in MVAC systems using electronic leak detection or other conventional means, they frequently turn to UV dyes to aid in locating leaks.

The effectiveness of UV dye for refrigerant leak detection is recognized by OEMs and has proven to be a valuable tool in the service aftermarket.

The performance of UV dyes in MVAC applications has been addressed by the automotive industry and is subject to SAE standards. The dye in Genetron 134aUV meets and / or exceeds these SAE J2297 standards.



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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ● Associate Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

UE posts 3rd straight win

UNIVERSITY of the East raced to its third straight win by dumping College of St. Benilde, 72-57, yesterday in the Bantay Bata showdown at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. In the second game, Philippine Christian University edged La Salle, 78-77.

POST-ASIAD CRACKDOWN

Soft tennis head coach also gets ax

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE POST-ASIAN Games crackdown has started to snowball after the soft tennis association yesterday fired its head coach, making it the second national sports association to have done so in as many days.

Antonio Tamayo, president of the Philippine Soft Tennis Association, sacked head coach Pete Custodio who was being blamed for the exclusion of the country's top bet Josephine Paguyo in the Busan Asiad soft tennis women's singles competition.

Following a deliberation with the athletes and coaching staff yesterday, Tamayo concluded that Custodio failed to put Paguyo's name in the line-up, denying the 35-year-old netter of the chance to compete in her specialty event.

"I have been preparing for it for more than a year because I know that this is going to be my last Asiad," Paguyo told the INQUIRER.

The eventual bronze medalist in the women's singles, Zhao Ying of China, lost to Paguyo during the China Cup in Shanghai last August.

Paguyo has won the singles gold medal in the 2002 Southeast Asian championships and the bronze medals in the 2000 Asian championships and the 1995 World Cup.

"I really think we had a good chance to get a medal in the women's singles because I know my fellow contenders," added Paguyo, who nevertheless competed–and lost– in the women's doubles and mixed doubles with teammates Petronia Bantay and Richmond Paguyo.

Paguyo said that being the head coach, Custodio was tasked to make sure the Filipinos are entered in their events. "But when I asked him (Custodio) why my name wasn't on the official list, he said he forgot about it."

"This is a wake-up call for us and maybe a signal that it's time to uplift the development of soft tennis in the country by taking out the stumbling blocks," said Tamayo. "Such blunder was unforgivable."

Revitalized NBL tilt set next year

THE FOUR-YEAR-OLD National Basketball League will unveil a revitalized and comprehensive fifth season early January on top of setting its sight on two prestigious international competitions featuring the best of Southeast Asian basketball.

NBL president Christian Tan said yesterday that not less than six teams will see action in the next NBL Conference.

"If plans do not miscarry, a powerhouse team from the defunct MBA and a top collegiate team will compete in the coming conference on top of our regular roster," said Tan. He noted that the demise of the MBA plus stars from the UAAP and the NCAA and other collegiate tournaments will assure the NBL of quality competitors.

Airfreight 2100-Fed-Ex under its chair Bert Lina and president Lito Alvarez, Bong Tan's Tanduay, Healthy Options and Tac Padilla's Spring Cooking Oil are sure to compete even as Visayan powerhouse squad Cebu-Lhuillier is finalizing its entry.

Others being eyed are multi-titled Boysen Paints, Wang's Ballclub, NCAA champion San Sebastian College, bemedalled University of Manila, newly crowned Colleges and Universities and Schools Association titlist Las Piñas College and University of Santo Tomas.

Sanctioned by the Basketball Association of the Philippines, an NBL selection will also carry the country's colors in the SEA Champions Cup this April and the 2003 SEA Games in Vietnam. Fritz Gaston, NBL vice president, said the NBL will pick only the best among the competing teams to represent the country internationally.

"The future looks bright for the league. I believe that there is a need to further strengthen the NBL in order to assure the continued growth of basketball," Gaston, a former Ateneo and PBA player, said.

"We are determined not to lose the SEAG diadem. By preparing early, we are assured of solid, well-prepared representative," added Gaston.

Tan noted that the PBL alone cannot accomodate the present crop of players. "Many talented players are finding it hard to find teams. Aside from exposure, they also need a source of livelihood. The NBL is willing to help," said Tan.

Aside from its regular tournament, Tan stressed that the NBL will also focus on a no-nonsense program to help high school teams improve their plays by sharing the expertise of their coaches and technical staff.

Those interested to join the league may inquire at tel. nos.: 5256780 or 0917-904-9637 and look for Eric Robles.

Shark, Blu, Montaña beat rivals

CEBU CITY—Regent-Shark and Blu All-Purpose bounced back with rousing victories against separate rivals even as Montaña stretched its winning streak to three yesterday in the PBL-CBF Dual Meet II at the University of San Carlos Gym here.

Regent-Shark nipped Cebuana-Lhuillier, a 67-65, while Blu All-Purpose snapped a two-game losing streak with an easy, 81-61, triumph over Casino Rubbing Alcohol.

Jon-Dan Salvador topped with 17 points but Jan Alfad and Gary David delivered the crucial blows for a 78-75 victory over Skygo Riders which preserved Montaña's hold of solo leadership.

They were up at 74-65 with 3:02 remaining in the game when Mike Manigo drilled in a jumper and a triple while Joseph Roland Quinahan sank two free throws for the Riders to threaten at 72-74, with 1:41 left.

Scores:

SHARK 67—Magsumbol, Castro 10, Abadia 8, Ybanez 6, Basilides 6, Valdez 6, Coching 5, Mendoza 5, Juinio 3, Epondulan 2, Omolon 1, Ortega 1.

LHUILLIER 65—Padilla 12, Maglasang 10, Lura 9, Lim 8, Delantes 7, Montalbo 6, Saton 6, Yu 4, Emnacen 3.

Quarters: 17-15, 38-27, 59-46, 67-65

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■ 'Government fooled us' /A26

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

■ Women storm Digitel office A27

Solons want toll board abolished

'TRB not serving its purpose, is biased against the people'

By Christian V. Esguerra

LAWMAKERS from Metro Manila and surrounding provinces are joining forces to call for the abolition of the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) after the Supreme Court junked twin petitions seeking the suspension of toll rate increases.

Parañaque Rep. Eduardo Zialcita yesterday said he and other members of the Lower House will meet today to map out ways to prevent indiscriminate toll increases at the North and South Luzon tollways and at the Skyway System.

"We will review the law and find ways to prevent automatic increases," Zialcita told the INQUIRER. "We will also seek the abolition of the TRB because it's not serving its purpose."

Representatives Ruffy Biazon of Muntinlupa, Cynthia Villar of Las Piñas and other lawmakers representing areas in the north affected by the increase are expected to attend today's meeting, according to Zialcita.

SOLONS/ A26

Who will be P188M richer?

By Agnes E. Donato

UNLIKE price increases, the rise in the jackpot prize of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) Super Lotto 6/49 is very much welcomed by consumers who will try to win it again tonight.

Now at an all-time high of P188 million after nobody hit the P178,625,000 jackpot in the draw last Sunday, the prize will

WHO WILL/ A27

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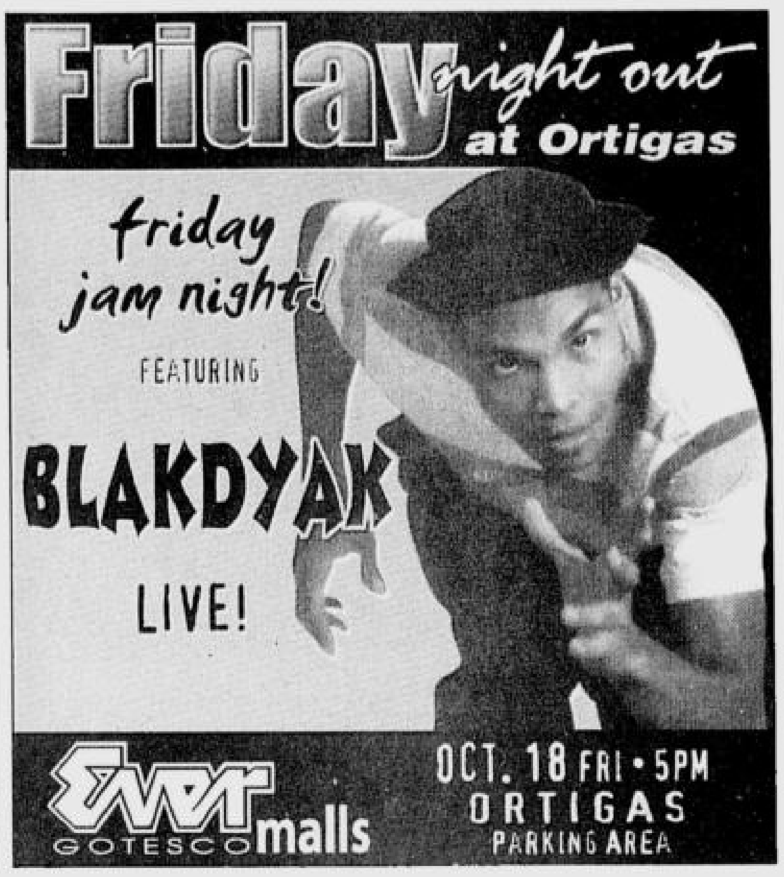
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RP might be next target after Bali

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

I'M NOT trying to be an alarmist, but what happened in Bali, Indonesia can happen here.

Our intelligence community should work hard to prevent a Bali in any part of the country, especially in vacation resorts where there are Caucasian tourists.

Those terrorists behind the Bali carnage were ruthless. They knew that they would send a message to the world: Don't mess with us.

* * *

The terrorists didn't consider the fact that they were enjoying protection from Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

Up until the Bali incident, Megawati was coddling members of the local members of the al Qaida, the Jemaah Islamiyah.

Let's hope the Indonesian government will this time be helpful to the Philippine government in our fight against our own Muslim terrorists who have links to the al Qaida.

* * *

The Muslim terrorists chose Bali, according to my friends in the intelligence community, because:

— The people there are predominantly Hindu in a country that is predominantly Muslim.

— The island resort is considered a "place of sin" because supposedly there's a lot of drinking and free sex in the area.

— It's a vacation place for Caucasian tourists whose countries support the US war on terrorism.

And since the Philippines supports the US in its war on terrorism, since we are a Christian country and our government is having a problem with our brother Muslims in the South, we are likely the next target of attack.

* * *

For that flippant reply to a question about her sex life-"plenty"—the President has received brickbats that are equally impertinent.

The supposedly strait-laced-supposedly is stressed-Sen. Panfilo Lacson said: "Plenty of sex, very little work. That's why we're poor. No wonder this country is going nowhere."

'If I know Lacson, he's the type of person who can't live without sex. He'd kill to have sex.

So, what's all the fuss about the President having plenty of sex, Mr. Lacson?

* * *

Another prude of a critic is Fr. Robert Reyes, the "running priest," who said that the President should abstain from sex in order to improve her efficiency as head of state.

"Look at us priests. Celibacy makes us more productive," said Reyes.

The good priest would want to make a nun of convent-bred GMA.

Doesn't Father Reyes know that some of his fellow priests who are sexually active perform well in their respective parishes?

Takbo ka lang kasi ng takbo kaya hindi mo alam ang pinagagagawa ng kapwa mo pari!

* * *

Another non sequitur from Reyes was his statement that the "plenty" remark did not go with the President's supposed efforts to project herself as a "devout Catholic."

So, the good priest wants all devout Catholics to be celibate!

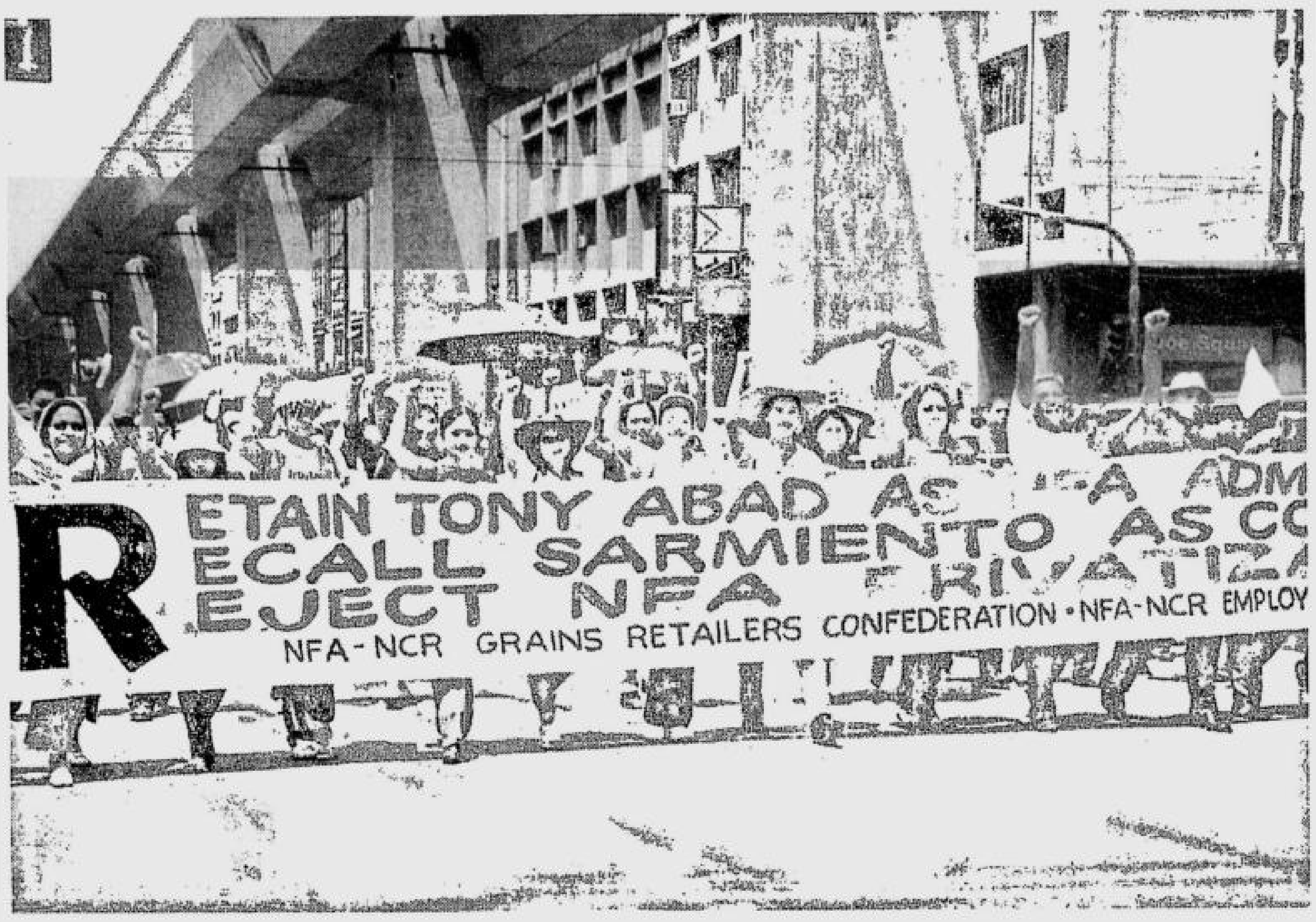
* * *

The truth is leaders who are sexually active are productive and efficient because they're relaxed in going about their job.

Sex relaxes and makes one sleep soundly. A person who has slept well performs well in his work.

Presidents Manuel L. Quezon, Ramon Magsaysay and Fidel V. Ramos are examples of sexually active leaders who performed well.

Let's not mention Cory Aquino as one of them because she was sex-less and therefore an inefficient president. And let's also exclude Joseph "Erap" Estrada who was so oversexed and "overboozed" he became dense. Erap is an example that too much of everything is bad.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PRO-ABAD, ANTI-SARMIENTO
Members of the Coalition of Farmers Organizations, Unions and Retailers (C-Four) march toward Don Chino Roces Bridge near Malacañang to air their call for the retention of Tony Abad as National Food Authority administrator and, the recall of the appointment of Angelito Sarmiento as NFA Council chair. They are also rejecting the privatization of NFA.

PPA

'Government fooled us'

By Agnes E. Donato

IF YOU think you're now paying less for your electricity, watch your monthly bill closely. You might just see that the cost of power has gone up again.

This was what the consumer group Power warned subscribers of the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) even as it announced its plan to hold mass actions today against the rising cost of electricity and other basic commodities.

Power spokesperson Lolita Donato said that her group would resume protests against Meralco, as the controversial Purchased Power Adjustment (PPA) have again started to increase.

"We urge the public to monitor their electric bills, so they will discover for themselves that Meralco is fast recovering the PPA deductions we had won because of our protests," Donato said.

"We kept quiet after the Macapagal-Arroyo government acted to bring down the PPA rates last June. But this does not mean we have stopped monitoring the PPA," she said.

"Now, it's obvious that Meralco and the government only fooled us when they lowered the price of the PPA," she added.

"The PPA rates are again increasing, and Meralco's petition for a price hike has not even been decided upon yet."

Donato claimed that from a low P1.71/kwh in June, the PPA now averages P1.85/kwh.

Donato said that Meralco stands to earn P157 million per month from the 14-centavo PPA increase.

This is based on Meralco's total sales of 22.68 billion kilowatt hour last year, she said.

She said that Power, along with the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, will lead residents of Sampaloc, Malate and Tondo in Manila and of Caloocan City in holding noise barrage starting this morning. She said there will also be a protest blackout at about 6 p.m. in the same areas.

NBI 'exercising prudence' in Gotesco land case

By Philip Tubeza and Tina Santos

FORMER Caloocan City Mayor Macario "Boy" Asistio yesterday accused the National Bureau of Investigation of trying to save incumbent Mayor Rey Malonzo from liability in the reported P700-million Gotesco land scam—a charge NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco vehemently denied.

Wycoco yesterday said the bureau did not sit on the graft charges against government officials allegedly responsible for the land scam.

He said the bureau has even charged those responsible before the Office of the Ombudsman as early as May last year.

But he said the Ombudsman threw back the case to the NBI because of two pending civil cases related to the land scam which are still being heard before the Supreme Court.

"It's not true that we did not do anything about it," Wycoco said. "(However,) the Ombudsman returned the charges to us without action."

He said the NBI is "cautious" about the case since it does not want to be cited for contempt by the high court.

"The bureau awaits the ruling of the Supreme Court," Wycoco said. "It is only exercising prudence in deference to the (high court)."

He said the bureau began investigating the case during the time of the late NBI Director Santiago Toledo.

When it finished its inquiry, the NBI recommended the filing of charges against Commission on Audit Chair Celso Gangan, commissioners Sofronio Ursal and Raul Flores, COA Special Audit office director Gregorio Ong, 10 Caloocan City council members, lawyer Yolanda Alfonso of the Registry of Deeds, and officials of the Gotesco Investment Inc.

GII owner Jose Go was also held liable for swindling, malversation of public funds and graft.

The case stemmed from the illegal transfer of the 22,685-square-meter land on Rizal Avenue Extension in Caloocan. The Ever Gotesco Central Mall now stands on the land.

But Asistio, Malonzo's political nemesis, is bent on pinning down the mayor as the man behind the land scam, adding that he had documents to prove this.

"(Malonzo's) name did not appear in the NBI findings but the report did not also state that he was cleared (of the liability)," Asistio said.

The Senate blue ribbon committee investigating the case had also asked the Department of Justice to look into the "hesitancy of the NBI to go after private individuals and public officials responsible for the anomalous transfer."

Calling the mayor "a liar and a thief," Asistio claimed Malonzo bribed lawyer Carlos Saunar of the NBI's anti-fraud division, which investigated the alleged irregularity.

Asistio said Saunar "accepted a bribe from Malonzo just to make it appear that (the mayor) did not have a hand in the scam."

"I told it to (Saunar's) face, that he had accepted a hefty amount just to exclude Malonzo's name in their findings," Asistio said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, October 17, 2002
28th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Eph 1:1-10
Gospel: Lk 11:47-54

Jesus said to the Pharisees, "A curse is on you, for you build memorials to the prophets your ancestors killed. So you approve and agree with what your ancestors did. Is it not so? They got rid of the prophets, and now you can build!"

(The Wisdom of God also said,) "I will send prophets and apostles and this people will kill and persecute some of them. But the present generation will have to answer for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the foundation of the world, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was murdered between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, the people of this time will have to answer for them all.

A curse is on you, teachers of the Law, for you have taken the key of knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you prevented others from entering."

As Jesus left that place, the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees began to harass him, asking him endless questions, setting traps to catch him in something he might say.

Commentary

All of us ought to have a special meditation: bishops, priests, religious, all who have a place of responsibility in the Church. Without any doubt we are tempted the same way as the pharisee. We are in some way professionals of religion. We possess the wisdom lacking in others. Our temptation can be to become good professors while forgetting we have to be the first ones living what we preach. And what about those who have distanced themselves from the Church because of our anti-testimony? It could be good to ask for pardon for that!

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE) —Dying declaration; res gestae—A dying declaration pertains to the declarant's statements on the cause and surrounding circumstances of his death made under the consciousness of an impending death. It is admissible because, as a general rule, when the person is at the point of death, every motive to falsehood is silenced, and the mind is induced by the most powerful consideration to speak the truth, and therefore, his statements, under such circumstances, deserve great weight. On the other hand, the declarant's utterances are considered part of res gestae when made immediately after a startling occurrence. The admission of such utterances are based on the well founded belief that words spoken instinctively at the time of a specific transaction or event, without the opportunity for the speaker to effectively concoct a fabricated version of the startling event can only be but credible. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Puno, First Division, People v. Calago, G. R. No. 141122, April 22, 2002]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Curfew violators nabbed

AT LEAST 28 minors broke the newly implemented curfew in Muntinlupa on Tuesday, the first day the city's curfew ordinance took effect.

The violators were brought to the newly created Barangay Curfew Hour Enforcement Council where they were warned not to show up in the streets again between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. The youth offenders were from the city's nine barangays.

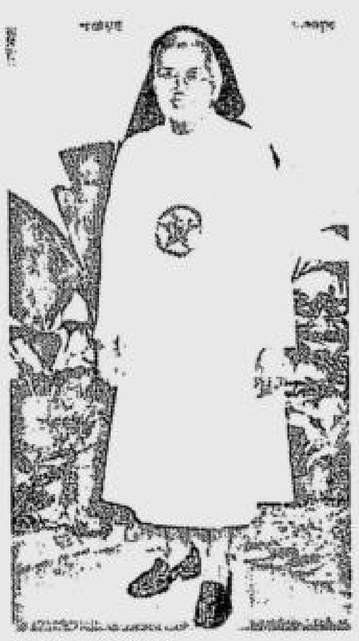
"We (were) quite lenient since it (was) only the first day of the curfew," said Barangay Cupang Chair Temy Simundac. "Next week will be a different story."

The Muntinlupa government has banned minors from the streets during these hours to protect them from drug peddlers and other criminal elements.

Violators will be required to attend lectures on the value of the curfew ordinance and will have to render community service.

Christian Esguerra

Highest La Salle award for SFIC sister



DIMARANAN

FRANCISCAN Sister Mariani Dimaranan, 77, was bestowed the La Sallian Star Faith Award by the Philippine La Sallian Family last Aug. 13 at the Chapel of the Resurrection at De La Salle University's College of Saint Benilde on Taft Avenue, Manila.

The highest award given every three years by the Philippine La Sallian Family serves to "honor a person whose outstanding achievement provides inspiration to all members of the La Sallian Family in the Philippines."

Sr. Mariani is better remembered as the feisty chair of the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP) between April 1974 and September 1996 during the martial law era. She also served in various capacities in the congregation, as educator and administrator of its different schools.

Aside from the special medal of recognition, a cash prize will be given to a charity of Sr. Mariani's choice over a period of three years.

Solons want toll...

From page A25

The lawmakers are up in arms following the high court's dismissal of the separate petitions of Zialcita and lawyer Ceferino Padua on mere technicality. The SC told the petitioners to exhaust all legal remedies before the TRB and the Office of the President.

Zialcita said he would ask the high tribunal to reconsider its decision since filing a petition to suspend toll increases before the TRB would supposedly be an exercise in futility.

"The TRB has always shown bias against the public, and this is exactly the reason why I decided to go to court," the lawmaker said.

Last December, the TRB approved petitions for the collection of new toll rates at the two expressways and the Skyway System without supposedly conducting a public hearing.

The Philippine National Construction Corp. and the PNCC Skyway Corp. are managing the two expressways and the Skyway system.

Zialcita described the TRB ruling as a "backdoor approval" since it was made days before New Year's Eve when the public practically did not know there was even a toll rate increase petition.

"The TRB was a party to the increase," he said. "If we file our petition before the TRB, how can it rule against itself?"

MMDA to use cash machines for traffic violation cases

By Leila B. Salaverria

TO CURB corruption and speed up transactions in redemption centers, the Metro Manila Development Authority will soon be acquiring cashier machines similar to those found in fastfood places.

According to MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, the cashier machines will make the payment of traffic violation tickets as easy as ordering a meal in a fastfood restaurant.

"(Transactions) will be faster," Fernando said. "It's as if you just ordered from McDonald's."

MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said the machines will also help in curbing corruption in the redemption centers.

He explained the machines will have buttons corresponding to the different offenses that require a fine. Once a violator comes to pay his ticket, the cashier will only need to punch the button that corresponds to his offense, and the amount of the fine will flash on the screen.

"Everything will be automated unlike before, where everything is manual," Vergel De Dios told reporters. "(With automation), there would be less chances for cheating and bribery."

At the end of the day, the receipts could easily be tallied, Fernando said.

The MMDA chair also told reporters that they cut down the number of redemption centers from eight to five, so that there would be less venues for corruption and less centers to keep an eye on.

Among those retained are the Mandaluyong, Pasay and Quezon City redemption centers because there are a lot of people who pay their tickets there, said Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna.

The MMDA has recently abolished the seminars that erring motorists are required to attend in order to redeem their licenses.

Vergel de Dios said the seminars have failed to serve their purpose and even promoted corruption.

He added that one employee had been caught accepting a bribe.

If one employee can do it, he said, then there may be more who might have done the same as well.

Parañaque policeman suspended

INTERIOR Secretary Jose Lina suspended a Parañaque policeman for failing to immediately relay to appropriate responding units a robbery reported through the agency's Patrol 117 hotline.

PO1 Felix Demecillo was slapped with a five-day suspension after he failed to report a robbery at Zion Machinery Inc. on the East Service Road.

"Let this serve as a stern warning to all policemen that they should be on their toes all the time," Lina said.

In an affidavit, a certain Bormeo Modanza said he reported the robbery through the Patrol 117 hotline which then relayed the information to the city police headquarters.

The desk officer passed the report to Demecillo of the Police Community Precinct 3 at the Bicutan Interchange. But Demecillo allegedly failed to inform the proper police unit.

Christian Esguerra

Bulalacao, 60

DR. LOLITA Jagudilla Bulalacao, Ph. D., of the University of Perpetual Help Rizal (UPHR) Research and Development Center, died yesterday morning at the Manila Doctors Hospital in Manila. She was 60.

Bulalacao had the longest stint as dean of the UPHR College of Arts and Science before she became research head of the university. She was also a Scientist II and senior museum researcher of the National Museum of the Philippines.

She obtained a doctoral degree in Biological Science from the University of Santo Tomas (UST) in 1984, a masteral degree in Biological Science in 1974, and a Bachelor of Science in Education (BSE) in General Science at the University of San Agustin in Iloilo City in 1963.

Bulalacao is survived by husband Jimmy Bulalacao and daughter Grace Bulalacao and her family.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Chapel in Sucat, Parañaque City.

Beatification

THE MOTHER Ignacia Movement for the speedy beatification of Mother Ignacia del Espiritu Santo, founder of the Congregation of the Religious Virgin Mary (RVM), will be launched Saturday, Oct. 19, at the St. Mary's Academy in Guagua, Pampanga.

Who will...

From page A25

be the biggest take in the history of the state-run lottery, which was introduced in 1995.

The biggest lottery jackpot so far of P161.9 million had been shared by two players of the Mega Lotto 6/45 draw in January 1998.

Arnel Casas, PCSO assistant manager for the central operations department, said the jackpot for tonight's Super Lotto draw could still go higher than the projected P188 million, depending on the ticket sales.

The Super Lotto jackpot has not been won in the past 20 draws.

The last time it was won was on July 25 when one winner took home P145.8 million.

'JUSTICE FOR MARIQUIT'

Women storm Digitel office

By Agnes E. Donato

TRUE to her vow to fight on, the accuser of a brother of business tycoon John Gokongwei yesterday led other other sexual harassment victims in picketing Gokongwei's Digital Telecommunications Co. (Digitel) office in Quezon City.

Former Digitel employee Mariquit Soriano and the militant women's group Gabriela, stormed the office on on E. Rodriguez Avenue in Libis to protest the Quezon City prosecutor's dismissal of Soriano's case against Digitel executives Johnson Robert Go and Eric Severino.

A brief commotion took place during the rally when Digitel's security personnel yelled at the protesters and ordered them to leave.

But Soriano said her group was only conducting an awareness drive on sexual harassment. She said they plan to hold similar actions in business districts and university campuses.

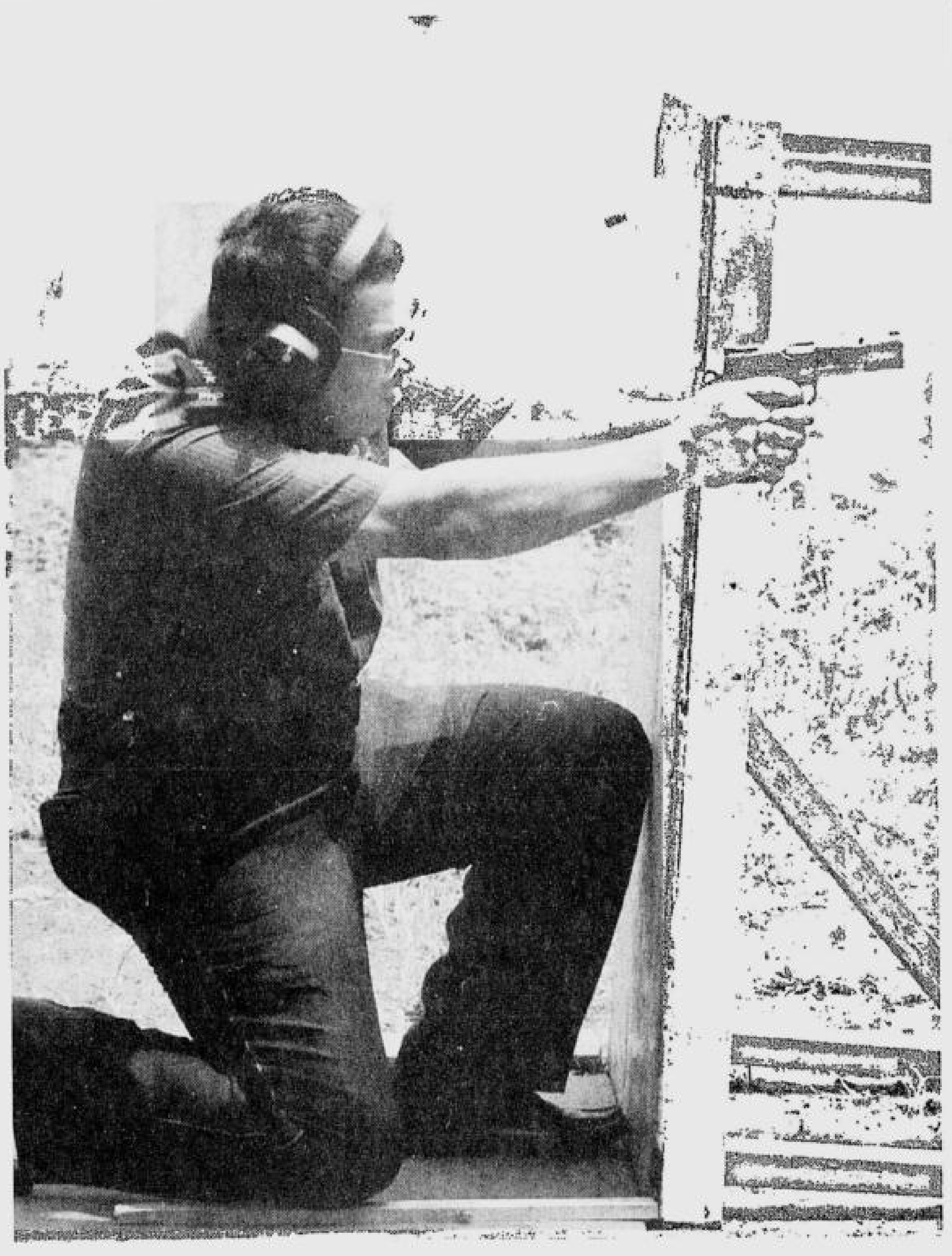
"After what happened to Mariquit's case, it is apparent that justice for sexual harassment victims lies not with our flawed justice system, but in the hands of women," said Gabriela secretary general Emmi de Jesus.

"We are making an example of Digitel to show how trivial the crime of sexual harassment is treated in our patriarchal society," de Jesus added.

She claimed Digitel should be held liable for not abiding with a provision of the Anti-Sexual Harassment Law of 1995, which mandates public and private institutions to formulate their own Implementing Rules and Regulations of the said law.

De Jesus said Soriano's case could have been discussed first within Digitel, had the company created an IRR for the Anti-Sexual Harassment Law.

"But even with Mariquit's celebrated case, Digitel still has not made any move to protect its female employees from the criminal act of sexual harassment," de Jesus said.



GUN MAN

Philippine National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane leads other police officials in a proficiency firing session at the shooting range of Camp Crame in Quezon City.

JOAN BONDOC

BF ordered to reinstate workers

By Leila B. Salaverria

DISMISSED employees of BF Metal Corp. rejoiced on Tuesday after the National Labor Relations Commission ordered the company owned by Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando to reinstate the workers and pay them full back wages.

The workers ended their 15-day hunger strike on Tuesday amid rejoicing over the NLRC's reversal of its earlier decision upholding the workers' dismissal for joining an illegal strike.

Victor Briz of the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino said management was expected to appeal the NLRC order to pay back wages to the employees even as he hailed the decision as a victory for the union.

He said the NLRC ordered the 23 workers reinstated after it found that they did not commit an illegal strike as the BF Metal management had alleged.

Moises Rodriguez, head of the BF Metal Labor Union, said Fernando should be blamed for union-busting and for his "terrorism" in his company.

"We would not have gone on a hunger strike or bothered anyone if we had been guilty," he said. "But what Bayani Fernando did to us is union-busting. It's terrorism in the workplace, pure and simple."

Despite their disagreement with BF Metal's management, Briz said the workers would still return to work as soon as they regain their strength.

He said the workers are willing to have a dialogue with management.

Eleven workers of BF Metal started a hunger strike in front of the MMDA office on Oct. 1, and vowed to continue until the workers are reinstated at BF Metal.

Briz said only seven of the 11 hunger strikers remained on Tuesday because four had collapsed or had been ordered by a doctor to stop fasting.

7-year-old boy shot as 2 men quarrel

SEVEN-YEAR-OLD Lorenzo Miguel Nako took a bullet in the buttocks after a neighbor fired a gun during an argument with the boy's father on Tuesday night.

The bullet exited through the boy's penis, said PO2 Dexter Castor. Taguig police arrested the suspect, identified only as Augusto.

The boy's father Rufino Nako and an aunt went to the neighbor's house, from whom the Nakos allegedly get their electricity, at the ISU Village at the border of Taguig and Makati. Augusto, said to be reeking of liquor, came and he and the elder Nako got into an argument until Augusto took out his gun and fired at the ground.

However, the bullet hit the boy. Nako called the Makati police headquarters to report the incident. But PO2 Castor said that since the incident happened in Taguig, Makati police would turn over the investigation to their Taguig counterpart.

Leila Salaverria

METROBRIEFS

Killed in underpass

METRO AIDE Alejandro Ladran Sr. was killed yesterday when a speeding taxi ran over him while he was sweeping a portion of the Edsa-Crossing underpass in Mandaluyong. Ladran, resident of Barangay Hulugan, Tanza, Cavite and a member of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Environmental Sanitation Center, died in a hospital from severe head injuries after he was hit by the vehicle driven by Lamberto Basa, police said. MMDA traffic personnel arrested Basa after a brief chase. Police said Basa's van (PWM 381) was speeding along the north-bound lane of Edsa when he ran over Ladran. Basa is detained at the Mandaluyong City traffic police station headquarters detention center and is facing charges of reckless imprudence resulting to homicide. ***Nelson F. Flores***

Suspect shot dead

ROOKIE policeman PO1 Briccio Reamillo shot dead suspected drug dealer Joselito Indon, 33, and wounded his unidentified female companion on Tuesday night in Jala-Jala, Rizal, police said. Reamillo, who surrendered to authorities after the shooting, said Indon threatened to shoot him with a homemade gun. Senior Insp. Eduardo Garovillas, Jala-Jala police chief, said Reamillo was on his way home from a meeting at the police station headquarters when he chanced upon Indon who was wielding a .22 revolver, which he pointed at the cop. Reamillo reacted by shooting Indon, Garovillas said. ***Nelson F. Flores***

Electrocuted while fishing

ADOLFO Cular, 42, went fishing in the Pasig River in Manila on Monday afternoon and electrocuted himself when he touched the live electrical wire he was using to fish, police said. Cular, of Pandacan, Manila, fell in the river and was electrocuted, said Detective Alfredo Salazar of the Western Police District homicide section. Cular later died in a hospital, police said. The accident happened along the Pasig River at the Center Industrial Corp. near Beata Street in Pandacan, Manila. Police said Cular was trying to catch fish and used a live electrical wire attached to a house 190 meters away. ***Philip C. Tubeza***

Nabbed for fake checks

NIGERIANS Harari Tomocor and Philip U. Onihana were arrested Monday night after one of them tried to pay for their hotel bill with a tampered traveler's check, police said. Police said security agents of the Peninsula Manila Hotel nabbed the two after Tomocor checked in and tried to use an American Express traveler's check, which hotel employees found had been tampered to look like it was $1,000 instead of only $10. Police said Onovo's passport showed that he is a Canadian national. He also claimed that his real name is Kevin C. Onovo. He said he was renting a room in Malate, Manila. His companion Onihana, 40, is a Nigerian and a resident of Bacoor, Cavite, police said. ***Leila B. Salaverria***

Drug fugitive captured

CALOOCAN police on Tuesday arrested alleged shabu peddler Adolais Arimpo in his house at the Heroes del 96 DM Compound, Caloocan. Members of the Police Community Precinct 3 had been hunting down Arimpo for a year for violating Republic Act No. 6425 or the Dangerous Drugs Act after he was allegedly caught with about 60 grams of shabu last year. PCP 3 commander Inspector Christopher Onelia said Arimpo was arrested on a tip that he had returned to the area. Arimpo told police he hid in Mindanao for almost a year and returned only to Caloocan last week. He is now detained at Caloocan City headquarters, police said. ***Tina Santos***

Dead man in cab

THE BODY of mechanical engineer Hernando Agasit Jr., 34, of Barangay Quirino in Solano, Nueva Viscaya, on Tuesday was found in an abandoned Sturdy Taxi (NYT 126) on Malakas Street in Quezon City. Police said Agasit's skull was broken and he had several cuts in the forehead, left hand and shoulder. Police were trying to locate taxi driver Marlon de Guzman of Yakal Street, San Francisco Homes in San Francisco del Monte. ***Agnes E. Donato***

Abalos listens to youth gangs

MANDALUYONG City Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. met with the leaders of different fraternities and gangs in the city and urged them to end their violent ways as he promised full government support to meet their lawful needs.

The mayor met with the leaders of the Tau Gamma Phi and Alpha Sigma Omega fraternities, and the Marshall Squad, Tres Cantos and Quatro Cantos gangs.

Abalos said the city government through the local manpower and development office is committed to help city-based fraternities and gangs to change their violent ways by giving them jobs and training them to be productive members of society. He said fraternal organizations should promote good deeds and not gang wars.

"The city government is always ready to address your needs," Abalos said. "To members who are out-of-school youths, I'll find a way to give you sure jobs and skills training."

City policemen said youthful offenders belonging to fraternities and street gangs have been committing numerous acts of violence in Mandaluyong recently.

Nelson Flores

'MGA MUNTING TINIG'

'A modest film with a big heart'

By Remy M. Umerez

FILMMAKER Gil M. Portes' latest work, "Mga Munting Tinig," is a full-color proof that a local movie can get noticed in the international market by being distinctly Filipino but with a universal appeal and flavor.

The movie won positive feedback when it was premiered last month in the Toronto International Film Festival.

Starring Alessandra de Rossi, the movie was inspired by the experiences of a young teacher assigned to a far-flung barrio where she makes a difference and touches the hearts and minds of her pupils and their families.

De Rossi, 18, gave a well-done performance, which reportedly merited a standing ovation and moved many in the mixed audience to tears.

US critic Roger Ebert said the movie "is a good cry."

Steve Gravestock of the Toronto International Film Festival, considered the biggest cinema event in Nothern America, called De Rossi "phenomenal."

Jenny Punteer of the Toronto Globe and Mail wrote: "She has the potential of becoming another Penelope Cruz."

"A modest film with a big heart," said the Toronto Festiva Festival Daily.

"A rare Philippine film that has inspiration and heart," gushed the Asian Pacific Association of Critics USA. "No violence, no gratuitous sex and overbearing melodramatic crying."

In the Philippines, controversy continues to hound De Rossi due to her feud with elder sister Assunta. But that is beside the point for the young star who also gave creditable performances in "Hubog" and "Azucena." "Mga Munting Tinig" is her biggest break to date.

She was first noticed in Carlito Siguion-Reyna's "Azucena" (Dogeaters), which was exhibited in the 2000 Toronto International Film Festival, competed in the Valladolid International Film Festival, and won as Best Picture in San Diego's Asian Film Festival this year.

In the 2002 Metro Manila Film Festival, she was Best Supporting Actress for "Hubog," where she played a dim-witted girl growing up in the slums.

Non-bankable but highly respected thespians support her in "Mga Munting Tinig"—Gina Alajar, Amy Austria and Dexter Doria, who all deliver sterling performances. Child actors Bryan Homecillo, Pierro Rodriguez III, Sining Blanco, Keno Aggaro and Christian Galindo as well as stage stalwarts Nonie Buencamino, Irma Adlawan, Tony Mabesa, Nanding Josef and Malou Crisologo are also featured.

Written by Sennedy Que and Adolf Alix, "Mga Munting Tinig" remained a dream project until CAP Philippines Inc. decided to produce it with Portes' own outfit, Teamwork Productions.

Ray Cuerdo, in charge of the world market, said the film and the star both have breakout potentials. The film is officially under consideration in the Foreign Language film category of the Golden Globe awards.

After "Mga Munting Tinig" was screened at the Toronto International Film Festival, Nippon Films Co Ltd. offered to purchase the rights to the film for Japan.

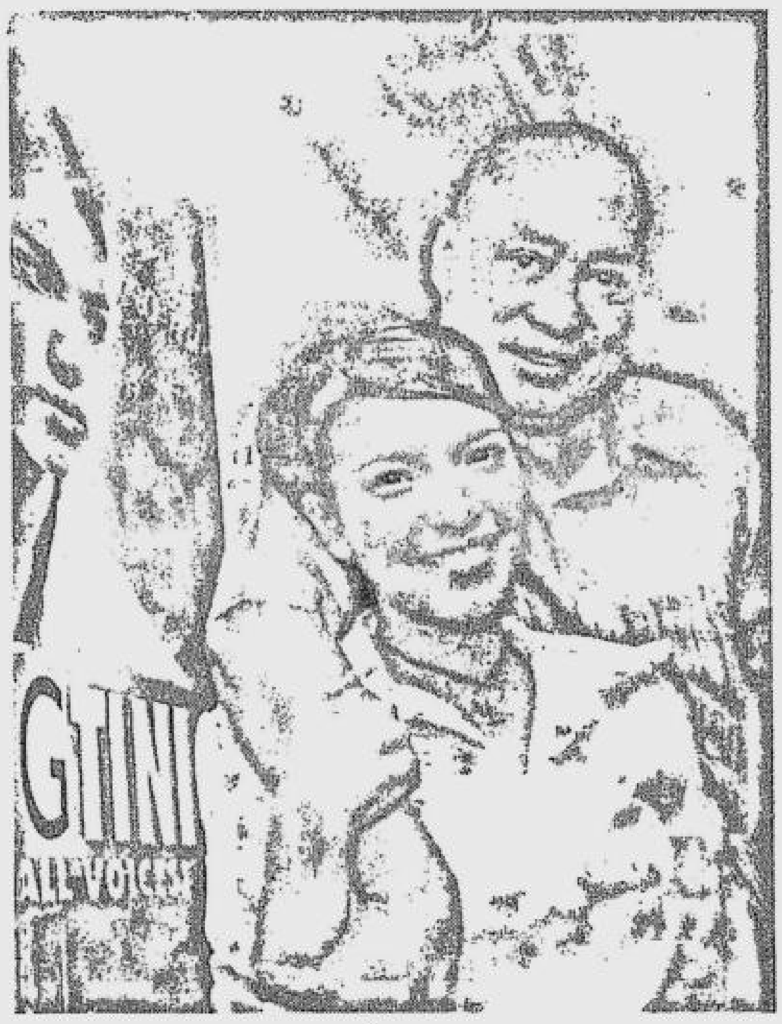
"Mga Munting Tinig" was also chosen by American Film Institute (AFI) as the only Filipino film among the 10 Asian new film classics which will be screened next month in the Los Angeles International Film Festival.

The magic 10 includes the Cannes Best director winner from Korea, "Chiwaseon," Iran's "Benani," Japan's "Dark Water" and Vietnam's "Deserted Valley."

The Foundation for Worldwide People Power, chaired by Eggie Apostol, has also chosen "Mga Minting Tinig" as a tool to generate interest and public support for the foundation's new educational thrust.

The picture is also among those being considered to be the country's entry in the Oscar best foreign picture category.

"I've done my best," Portes said. "I hope the public will support it."



DIRECTOR and star. Gil Portes and Alessandra de Rossi.

RANDY HORMILLOSA

Warm welcome ...

From page A29

tion of innate talent and extensive experience.

'Pinocchio' onstage

LAST Sunday, we wrote about **Roberto Benigni**'s decision to direct and star in the latest film version of 'Pinocchio'. Benigni's movie won't be showing here until December, however. If you can't wait that long, it turns out that the story of the puppet who wants to become a real boy is currently being told in these parts, but onstage.

Ongoing until Oct. 26 at the CCP is a new adaptation of **Carlo Collodi**'s well-loved tale. The story has become a classic because in its single, childlike way, it shares a lot of insights into issues that remain relevant to this day, especially the importance of honesty. Call 832-3661.

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Some scenes may be traumatic to children.

Regular showing on October 23 at the SM CINEMAS.

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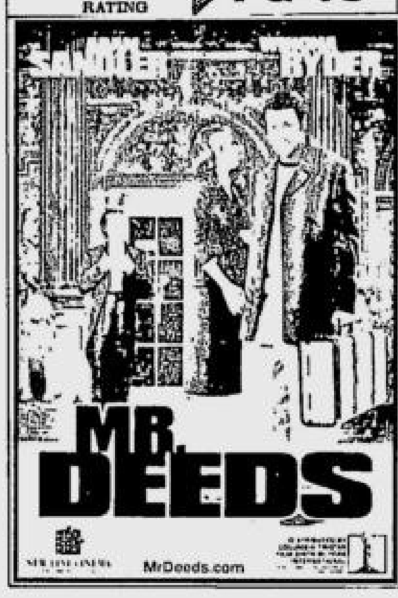


Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

Laugh, fall in love !
SECOND WEEK

Adam Sandler is Longfellow Deeds, a lovable small-town guy who runs a pizzeria and writes greeting-card poems.

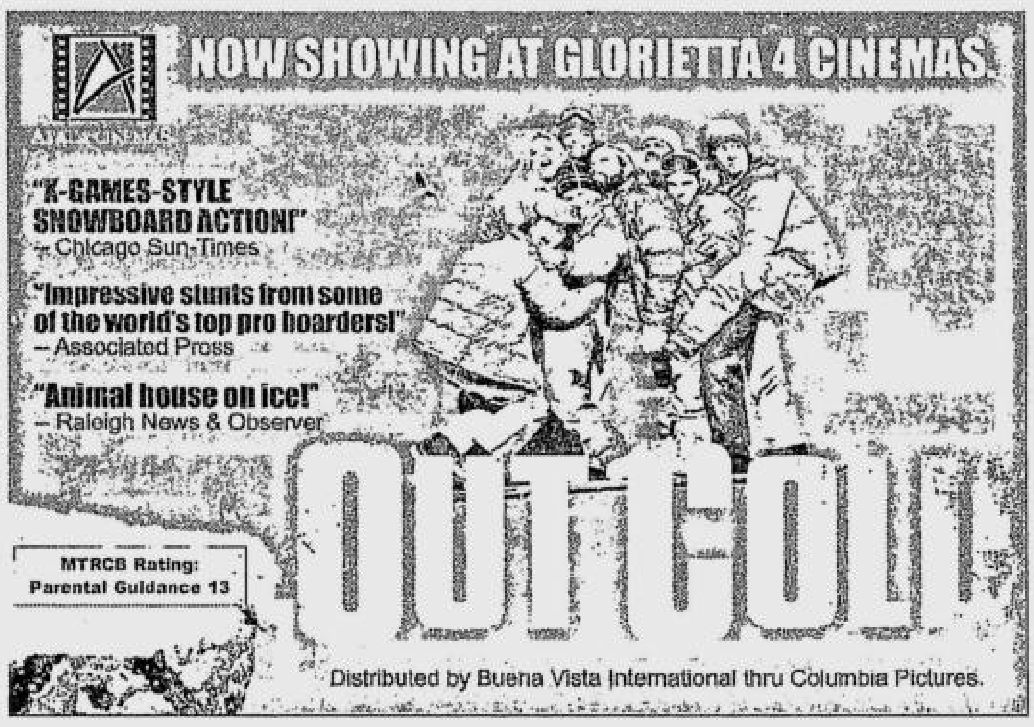
When he turns out to be the sole heir of a multi-billionaire, he moves to New York City where greedy businessmen try to take over the media empire he inherited.

Babe (WINONA RYDER), a tabloid reporter posing as a small-town girl to get the inside story, discovers Deeds' sincerity and big heart, and finds herself falling for him.

After *The Wedding Singer* and *Big Daddy*, Adam Sandler is back as the clumsy, sweet guy who gets the girl in *Mr. Deeds*.

It's the most fun you'll have on a date movie!

BRING A DATE, the laughs are on MR. DEEDS.



NOW SHOWING AT GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS

"X-GAMES-STYLE SNOWBOARD ACTION!"
– Chicago Sun-Times

"Impressive stunts from some of the world's top pro boarders!"
– Associated Press

"Animal house on ice!"
– Raleigh News & Observer

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

OUT COLD

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures.

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AYALA CINEMAS
ArtFilm Greenbelt 1

Spanish Festival for Culture and Arts Films

OCTOBER 20 - 26, 2002 ONLY AT ARTFILM - GREENBELT 1

October 20 (Sun)
La Ardilla Roja 11:30pm
Bwana 2:00pm
Goya En Burdeos 4:30pm
Solas 7:00pm
Tesis 9:30pm

October 21 (Mon)
El Abuello 11:00pm
La Ardilla Roja 2:00pm
Retrato de Mujer 4:30pm
Con Hombre Al Fondo
Bwana 7:00pm
Goya En Burdeos 9:30pm

October 22 (Tue)
Goya En Burdeos 11:30pm
Solas 2:00pm
Tesis 4:30pm
El Abuello 7:00pm
La Ardilla Roja 9:30pm

October 23 (Wed)
Retrato de Mujer 11:30pm
Con Hombre Al Fondo
El Abuello 2:00pm
Bwana 4:30pm
Goya En Burdeos 7:00pm
Solas 9:30pm

October 224 (Thu)
Tesis 11:30pm
Goya En Burdeos 2:00pm
El Abuello 4:30pm
Bwana 7:00pm
Retrato de Mujer 9:30pm
Con Hombre Al Fondo

October 25 (Fri)
El Abuello 11:30pm
Retrato de Mujer 2:30pm
Con Hombre Al Fondo
Bwana 4:30pm
Tesis 7:00pm
Solas 9:30pm

October 26 (Tue)
Bwana 11:30pm
Retrato de Mujer 2:00pm
Con Hombre Al Fondo
Goya En Burdeos 4:30pm
Solas 7:00pm
Tesis 9:30pm

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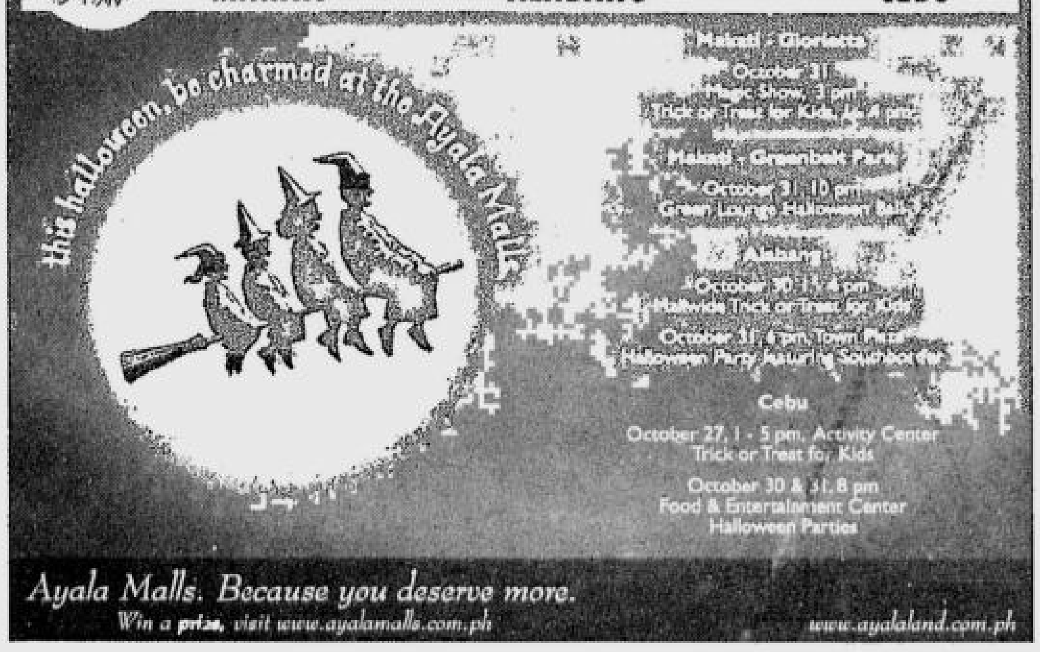
1 BALLISTIC ECKS vs. SEVER	1 POSSESSION	4 OUT COLD (EXCLUSIVE)	1 THE TOUCH	1 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER THX
2 THE TUXEDO	2 MORNINGS	5 THE TOUCH	2 THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST (EXCLUSIVE) 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	2 9 MORNINGS
3 9 MORNINGS	3 MR. DEEDS THX 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	6 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER	3	3 POSSESSION
4 MASIKIP MAINIT... PARAISONG PARISUKAT		7 THE TUXEDO	4 MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE (THE REPEAT) OCT 18-19 25-26	4 THE TUXEDO
				5 MR. DEEDS

The Ayala Malls Events

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

MAKATI ALABANG CEBU



this halloween, be charmed at the Ayala Malls

Makati - Glorietta
October 31
Magic Show, 3 pm
Trick or Treat for Kids, [illegible]
Makati - Greenbelt Park
October 31, 10 pm
Green Lounge Halloween Ball
Alabang
October 30, 1-4 pm
Mallwide Trick or Treat for Kids
October 31, 6 pm, Town Plaza
Halloween Party featuring Southborder
Cebu
October 27, 1 - 5 pm, Activity Center
Trick or Treat for Kids
October 30 & 31, 8 pm
Food & Entertainment Center
Halloween Parties

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www.ayalaland.com.ph

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Jeannie
Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang?

Tanya Garcia Asi Taulava

DIRECTED BY IKE JARLEGO, JR.

VIVA
Rexona
REV-X
LEONARDO

SHOWING NA SA OCTOBER 23!

Lea all set to shine again on Broadway

By Leah Salterio

NEW YORK— Everything is set for the Thursday night gala of "Flower Drum Song" (8 a.m. Friday, Manila time), the musical which marks the return of Lea Salonga to Broadway, where she first wowed audiences in "Miss Saigon" more than a decade ago.

The revival of the Rogers and Hammerstein musical is much awaited on Broadway. Opening-night tickets to "Flower Drum Song," which cost as much as $200 each, have been sold out weeks before the gala.

At Times Square, "Flower Drum Song" has a huge and colorful billboard showing Lea and her leading man, Jose Llana. But only Lea is billed on the billboard as well as on the marquee at the Virginia Theater on Broadway's West 52nd Street, where the musical will run until August 2003.

Llana, who is also Filipino, starred in other Broadway productions like "The King and I" and "Martin Guerre."

The Broadway production, which boasts of an entirely Asian cast, is the first major revival of "Flower Drum Song" since 1985, when it debuted here.

The new version was first presented in October 2001 at the Mark Taper Forum in downtown Los Angeles for a limited three-month run.

The ambitious revival was given a new touch by award-winning Asian-American playwright David Henry Hwang, who also wrote the critically acclaimed "M. Butterfly."

Lea has been in New York since July for rehearsals. Special previews started last Sept. 23 and Lea has been earning raves and standing ovations from the international audience.

"Flower Drum Song" makes Lea eligible for a Tony nomination next year for best actress in a musical. She won a Tony as well as a Laurence Olivier award in London in 1991 for "Miss Saigon."

Last Monday, Oct. 14, "Flower Drum Song" had a benefit special preview presented by the Asian Cultural Council (ACC), whose honorary members include New York designer Josi Natori, producer Ernest Escaler, businesswomen Ada Mabilangan and Isabel Caro-Wilson, and socialite and civic leader Lily O'Boyle.

The sold-out performance had tickets costing $200 to $1, 000, while sponsorship packages were sold for $10,000 and $5,000.

It was Columbus Day last Oct. 14, a non-working holiday here. But the Virginia Theater was packed for a Monday, when most Broadway theaters are usually closed.

The benefit event was organized to raise funds for the missions of the ACC, which supports cultural exchange in the visual and performing arts between the United States and Asian countries.

Proceeds from the benefit would go to study grants in the arts for deserving artists and scholars in Asia and the US.

Lea's mom Ligaya Salonga and younger brother Gerard arrived here two days ago to attend the Thursday night gala. Mother and son didn't make it to the L.A. run of the musical last year.

Her doctor had advised Mrs. Salonga against going on a long-haul trip for health reasons. Gerard, one of the most sought after musical directors in Manila, was busy with live concerts.

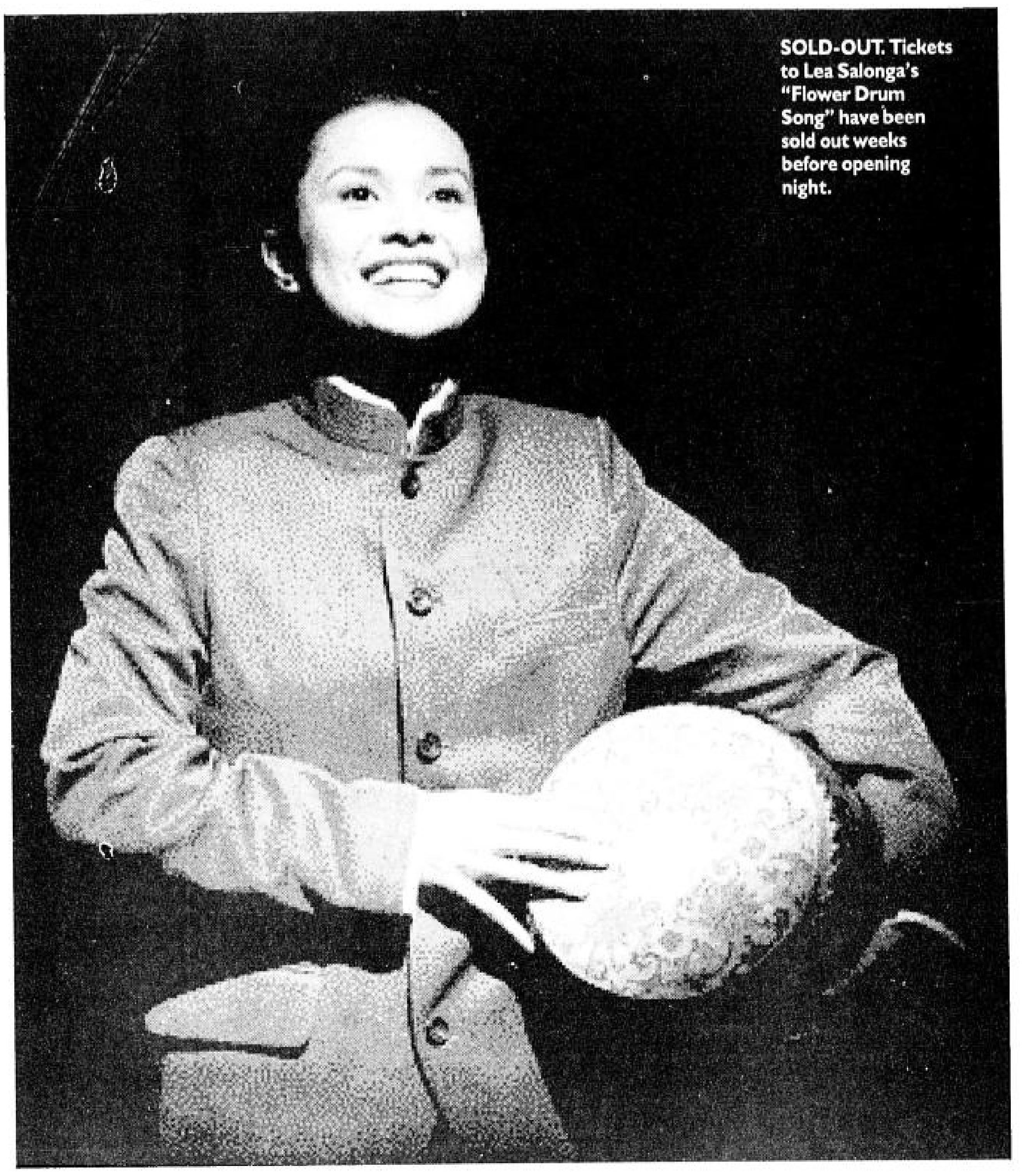
Lea's L.A.-based fiance, Robert Chien, also planed in to watch her for the first time on Broadway. Rob escorted Lea when she performed an excerpt from "Flower Drum Song" during the Tony Awards here last May. She sang "I Enjoy Being a Girl" in a tribute to Richard Rodgers.

The owners of Bayo (led by Ferdie Agustin), the garment line Lea is endorsing in Manila, also came for the gala, with the two winners of a Bayo contest.

Executives of BMG Records Pilipinas, Lea's recording label for six years now, are also in town to witness her second coming to Broadway.

While she's here, Lea will also do an all-original CD for BMG Records.

Her most recent BMG outing was the live recording of her Broadway concert in Manila, where she sings popular tunes like "Someone to Watch Over Me," "Don't Cry for Me Argentina," "I Don't Know How to Love Him," "As if We Never Said Goodbye" and "Too Much for One Heart," an unreleased song from "Miss Saigon."


SOLD-OUT. Tickets to Lea Salonga's "Flower Drum Song" have been sold out weeks before opening night.

Warm welcome for Tosca Puno

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FOR years now, we've been hearing from friends of **Rico J. Puno** that he has a young daughter who is not only pretty like her mother **Doris**, but also sings well like her dad. What a lucky, plucky combination, don't you think?

Now, Tosca is ready to go public. She's a special guest in a show this Friday, Oct. 18 at the ballroom of the Westin Philippine Plaza. Well, at last! Let's give a warm welcome to Rico J's musical pride and joy, **Tosca Puno**.

Even better, the Philippine Plaza show stars Rico J. himself with **Maui Taylor** as his other special guest. Expect Rico to do a duet with his daughter, aside from his signature solo pieces and some new numbers.

For her part, Tosca will render a couple of other songs, including a **Whitney Houston** number. Yes, the tall charmer has a strong singing voice and a wide vocal range that should serve her well on the increasingly more competitive "young diva" music scene.

By the way, there's another young singer in the Puno family, 17-year-old **Dorica**. She's still in school, but her love and talent for singing is already evident. For her part, Tosca is completing her own college studies at De La Salle, where she's majoring in Art Management.

The Rico-Tosca team is the latest father-daughter musical combination to enhance the local music scene, after **Hajji** and **Rachel Alejandro**, and **Freddie** and **Megan Aguilar**. Let's hope that it's as successful as those earlier pairings.

But Tosca is also bent on a solo career as a live-performance and recording artist, and she wants to give musical theater a go. Just like her dad, who decades ago played the demanding role of Judas in "Jesus Christ, Superstar."

Tosca's debut album is being released by Viva Records, hopefully before the end of the year. It includes many original compositions, plus her duet version with Rico of his signature song, "Kapalaran," that's been given a new arrangement.

So, Tosca's recording career is being properly prepared for. As for her development as a live-performance artist, it's productions like her Oct. 18 show that will give audiences a good idea of her strongest and weakest suits, and what more she needs to do to really make it in the field where her dad has enjoyed a singular success all these years. We hope that she more than passes muster.

Nora & Dolphy

NOW that she has a soap, "Bituin," on Channel 2, **Nora Aunor** is being showcased in guest roles on the channel's popular shows. First off the bat is **Dolphy's** "Home Along da Riles," where Nora plays a special guest role on Oct. 20.

Some viewers may wonder what the ace drama actress is doing an a sitcom, but her older fans can vouch for her comic ability on some TV shows and films many years ago.

But Nora's brand of comedy isn't the slapstick, hysterical kind that's seen so often on the tube these days. It's more a matter of well-timed reactions, situational rather than gimmick—or punchline—oriented humor. Come to think of it, it's pretty much like Dolphy's own controlled way of eliciting laughter.

It will be interesting to see Nora and Dolphy in their funny scenes together. They're two of the entertainment industry's most durable stars, and both have that rare combina-

WARM/A28

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

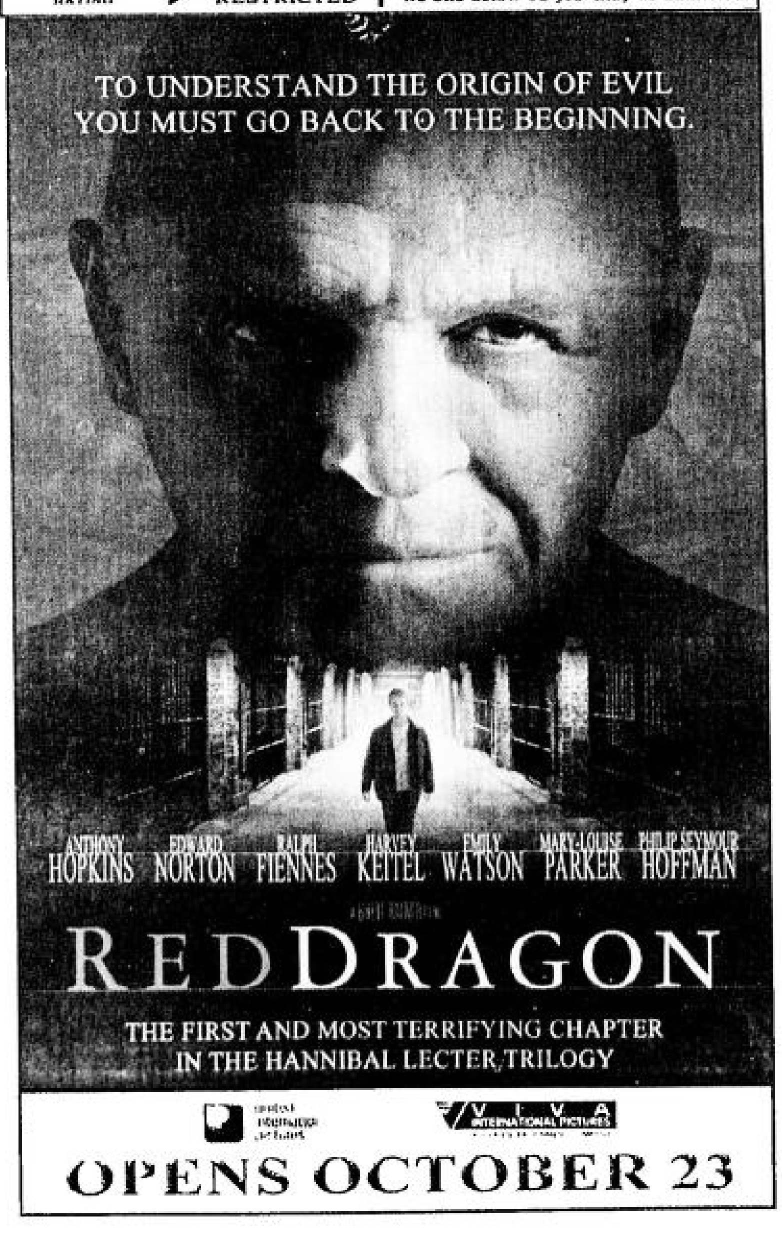
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MAPUPULANG ROSAS / KILLING ME SOFTLY
ODEON	ECK AND SAVER
ODEON-2	KARTA ALAS / NAKED NIGHTS
ROBEN	LOLLIPOP
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	HIGH CRIME / JUST VISITING
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	LOLLIPOP
REMAR	LOLLIPOP
REMAR-2	HUBAD NA MULTO
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	9 MORNINGS
B	MASIKIPT AT MAINIT
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	BLOOD WORK
CINEMA-2	MR DEEDS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA-2	LOLLIPOP
CINEMA-3	FRAILTY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLOODWORK
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TOUCH
CINEMA-6	BLODY RELATIONSHIP
CINEMA-7	PARAISONG PARASUKAT
CINEMA-8	'0
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TUXEDO
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BALLISTIC
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	MR DEEDS
CINEMA-12	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA-14	PARAISONG PARASUKAT
CINEMA-15	BESTMAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	BESTMAN
CINEMA 2	ENOUGH
CINEMA 3	PROSTI
CINEMA 4	ROAD TO PERDITION
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

TUXEDO P13 1:30,3:35,5:40, 7:45,9:50	9 MORNINGS GP 12:35,2:55,5:10, 7:25,9:40	MR. DEEDS P13 1:00,3:15,5:30, 7:45,10:00
POSSESSION P13 12:45,2:55,5:05, 7:15,9:30	BLOODWORK P13 12:10,2:30,4:50,	BALLISTIC P13 11:45,1:50,3.55, 6:00,8:05,10:10

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.


TO UNDERSTAND THE ORIGIN OF EVIL YOU MUST GO BACK TO THE BEGINNING.
ANTHONY HOPKINS
EDWARD NORTON
RALPH FIENNES
HARVEY KEITEL
EMILY WATSON
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9 MORNINGS
11:00, 1:10, 3:20,
5:30, 7:40, 10:00
GP

CINEMA 2
MR. DEEDS
12:15, 2:25, 4:35
6:45, 8:55
P 13

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— Rollingstone

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

RUPERT EVERETT · COLIN FIRTH · FRANCIS O'CONNOR · REESE WITHERSPOON · JUDI DENCH

Directed by Oliver Parker

Based on a play by Oscar Wilde

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Two young gentlemen (Rupert Everott & Colin Firth) living in 1890s England use the same pseudonym ("Earnest") on the sly, which is fine until they both fall in love with women using that name, which leads to a comedy of mistaken identities...

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MOVIE GUIDE

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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	THE TOUCH
2 (SDDS)	BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
3 (DTS)	TUXEDO
4 GOLD(DTS)	POSSESSION
5 GOLD(DOLBY)	BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
6 GOLD(SDDS)	9 MORNINGS
7 GOLD(DOLBY)	MR. DEEDS
8	9 MORNINGS
9	BESTMAN
10	MASIKIP MAINIT..

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1
2
3 (DTS)
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA ①②&③
(Pasay) tel [illegible]
TEL. 551 63 87

1	9 MORNINGS
2	BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
3	MASIKIP MAINIT

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	9 MORNINGS
2	TOUCH
3	BLOODWORK
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
5	BLOOD RELATION

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1	BLOOD RELATION
2	TUXEDO
3	MASIKIP MAINIT ....
4	9 MORNINGS
5	BESTMAN
6	BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to13
OCT. 16, 2002 PREMIERE OF "RED DRAGON" TIME 8:00 PM
OCT 17, 2002 "BALLISTIC"
TIME 6:10, 8:20, 10:30PM
OCT 18, 2002
TIME 6:10, 8:20, 10:30 PM
OCT19, TO 20, 2002
TIME 4:00, 6:40, 8:20 PM

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
2	SPY KIDS 2

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	RESERVE
2	HUBAD NA MULTO
3	9 MORNINGS

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	9 MORNINGS
2	BESTMAN
3	LOLLIPOP
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	9 MORNINGS
4	MASIKIP MAINIT ..
5	TUXEDO
6	BESTMAN
7 (DTS)	POSSESSION
8 (SDDS)	MR. DEEDS
9 (DOLBY)	BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	9 MONRINGS
2	MASIKIP MAINIT
3	MASIKIP MAINIT...
4 (SDDS)	9 MORNINGS
5	BESTMAN
6 (DOLBY)	BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
7 (DTS)	TUXEDO
8	TOUCH
9	LOLLIPOP

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

4	BESTMAN
5 (SDDS)	9 MORNINGS
6 (DTS)	MASIKIP MAINIT
7 (DOLBY)	BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
8	TUXEDO

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	9 MORNINGS
2	MASIKIP MAINIT
3 (DTS)	TUXEDO
4	BESTMAN
5 (SDDS)	BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	MASKIP MAINIT

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	MASKIP MAINIT ..

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	MASKIP MAINIT ..
Lords	PROSTI
Jennet	MASKIP MAINIT.

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	9 MORNINGS
2	MASIKIP MAINIT
3	BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
2	9 MORNINGS
3	RESERVE
4	MASIKIP MAINIT ..
5	RESERVE

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 : 879.2029

1	MASIKIP MAINIT
2	9 MORNINGS

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400

1	9 MONRINGS
2	PARAISONG PARISUKAT
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
4 (SDDS)	TUXEDO
5 (DTS)	POSSESSION
6	TOUCH
7	MR. DEEDS

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242 8400

1	PARAISONG PARISUKAT
2	LOLLIPOP

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 534.2198

1	BESTMAN
2	MASIKIP MAINIT..
3 (DTS)	9 MORNINGS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7983

1	MASKIP MAINIT.
2 (DTS)	9 MORNINGS
3 (DOLBY)	TUXEDO
4	BESTMAN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	BESTMAN
2 (DOLBY)	9 MORNINGS
3 (DTS)	TUXEDO
4	MASIKIP MAINIT

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	ENOUGH
2	BESTMAN
3	TUXEDO
4	RESERVE

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	9 MORNINGS
2	BESTMAN
3 (DOLBY)	TUXEDO
4 (DTS)	MR DEEDS

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY EX)	TUXEDO
2 (DTS)	9 MORNINGS
3	BESTMAN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1	RESERVE
2	BLOOD RELATION
3	LOLLIPOP
4	9 MORNINGS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	ROAD TO PERDITION
2	9 MORNINGS
3 (DTS)	BIRTHDAY GIRL
4	BESTMAN
5	MASIKIP MAINIT

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	9 MORNINGS
2	MASIKIP MAINIT
3	LOLLIPOP

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	9 MORNINGS
2	MASIKIP MAINIT
3	

Mega Center Mall
(044) 463-3283
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3233

1	MR DEEDS
2	BESTMAN
3 (DTS)	9 MORNINGS
4 (DOLBY)	K-19 THE WIDOW MAKER

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	BESTMAN
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	PROSTI
2	9 MORNINGS
3	TUXEDO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	PROSTI
2	BLOODWORK
3	9 MORNINGS
4	ENOUGH

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY)	MR. DEEDS
2	BESTMAN
3 (DTS)	BLOODWORK
4	TOUCH

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice .

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SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999

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1	BLOOD RELATION
2	BESTMAN
3	BALLISTIC
4	PARAISONG PARISUKAT
5	TUXEDO
6	9 MORNINGS
7	MR. DEEDS
8	THE TOUCH

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	9 MORNINGS
2	BESTMAN
3	POSSESSION
4	PARAISONG PARISUKAT
5	BALLISTIC
6	FRAILTY
7	THE TOUCH
8	TUXEDO
9	MR. DEEDS
10	PROSTI

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	BESTMAN
2	THE TOUCH
3	SPY KIDS 2
4	TUXEDO
5	MR. DEEDS
6	9 MORNINGS
7	BALLISTIC
8	PARAISONG PARISUKAT
9	BLOOD RELATIONS
10	FRAILTY
11	PROSTI
12	9 MORNINGS

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	BALLISTIC
2	FRAILTY
3	POSSESSION
4	MR. DEEDS
5	THE TOUCH
6	TUXEDO
7	PARAISONG PARISUKAT
8	BIRTHDAY GIRL
9	9 MORNINGS
10	BESTMAN
11	PROSTI
12	9 MORNINGS

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	FRAILTY
2	POSSESSION
3	BALLISTIC
4	MR. DEEDS
5	BLOOD RELATION
6	THE TOUCH
7	9 MORNINGS
8	BESTMAN
9	PARAISONG PARISUKAT
10	TUXEDO
11	9 MORNINGS
12	PROSTI

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	9 MORNINGS
2	THE TOUCH
3	PARAISONG PARISUKAT
4	BESTMAN
5	MR. DEEDS
6	BALLISTIC
7	POSSESSION
8	TUXEDO

SM SOUTHMALL
8066086

1	POSSESSION
2	MR. DEEDS
3	BALLISTIC
4	9 MORNINGS
5	PROSTI
6	FRAILTY
7	PARAISONG PARISUKAT
8	TUXEDO
9	BESTMAN
10	THE TOUCH

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE
2	FRAILTY
3	ENOUGH
4	VOODOO
5	LOLLIPOP
6	PROSTI
7	9 MORNINGS
8	TUXEDO

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	VOODOO
2	CLOSED
3	TUXEDO
4	PROSTI
5	THE ROOKIE
6	9 MORNINGS
7	CLOSED
8	SPIDER

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	TUXEDO
2	THE TOUCH
3	BLOOD WORK
4	BESTMAN
5	PARAISONG PARISUKAT
6	9 MORNINGS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	PARAISONG PARISUKAT
2	BALLISTIC
3	9 MORNINGS
4	BESTMAN

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	BALLISTIC
2	BESTMAN
3	9 MORNINGS
4	PARAISONG PARISUKAT

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

How about a show with TJ and Borgy?

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

I HAD an engaging tete-a-tete with **TJ Manotoc** at the birthday bash of our common friend, **Albert Nocum**, the "king" of Friends at the Square (my second home).

TJ is excited about his stint in "Unang Hirit" (GMA 7, 5: 30- 7 a.m., Monday to Friday).

"Starting this week I will be doing the rounds of the palengke," said TJ. "It's unusual for guys to be going to the market so it will give the viewers a different twist. Not only will I scout around for the cheapest ingredients but I will also have recipes for the day."

The "Crush ng Bayan" has no qualms about being deglamorized for his palengke segment. It goes well with his nature as a homebody.

"Many people are surprised to find out that I'm not a party animal," he said. "I don't drink or smoke. I would rather spend a quiet evening at home. I don't mind cooking so going to different markets for the show is no big deal for me. I love to mingle with all kinds of people."

His half-brother **Borgy Manotoc** (does being a heartthrob run in the family?) seems to be the night owl. Does that mean that they are opposites?

"To a certain extent we are different but we click," said TJ. "Borgy is more outgoing. I'm more introspective. We don't hang out together but during family affairs we get to catch up on each other's lives. Even if we don't see each other often we know that we somehow look out for each other. I'm proud of whatever achievements he has and I know he's happy for me when good breaks come my way."

While listening to TJ talk about his half-brother, it suddenly hit me that if sisters **Janice** and **Gelli de Belen** have "SIS," wouldn't it be refreshing to see a male bonding show hosted by TJ and Borgy? They may be half-brothers but they each have full lives which will make quite an exciting blend.

Just asking

COULD it be true that **Willie Revillame** is back to his arrogant ways and that's why most of his staff members in "Willingly Yours" have resigned? I just hope that he has not let the success of his new show go to his head. Hasn't he learned his lessons? He ought to remember that it was his braggadocio that caused him to be kicked out of "Magandang Tanghali Bayan." Not everyone is given a second chance so Willie better not blow it. He was practically penniless when he lost his job and was even considering to relocate abroad.

Why does he have to repeat the same mistake? As the title of his public service show suggests, he should be willing to change. The problem is, he seems to be unready and unable to do so.

***

I ATTENDED the Star Awards for TV at the UP Theater to give full support to my mom when she received the Lifetime Achievement Award. It was such a touching moment for us. While I was watching the ceremonies, I noticed some reactions from the crowd which sparked some questions in my mind.

Since the event had a delayed telecast, some portions were taped. **Regine Velasquez** and **Piolo Pascual** hosted one segment. I don't know if they shared a private joke prior to going up onstage because Regine could hardly contain herself. She kept giggling and bungled her lines so she had to do a Take 3 of her brief intro spiel. As the woman beside me said, "Bakit kaya parang kilig na kilig si Regine kay Piolo?"

When the audience started to tease her and went "U'yyy!" Regine was visibly pissed so she shot back, "Ah, shut up!"

Everyone was stunned. We wondered what came over Regine that night. Do we see a Regine-Piolo movie coming soon?

Why were the hosts of the longest running TV shows such as "Mel & Jay," "Eat Bulaga," "Batibot," to name a few, relegated to the background? They were not given the recognition they rightfully deserve. They were made to just stand onstage like in a firing squad and their names were not mentioned one by one. The likes of **Joey de Leon** and Direk **Bert de Leon** were not acknowledged for being around.

BORGY MANOTOC

TJ MANOTOC

The Star Awards may have had good intentions in honoring the TV legends but unfortunately, the ceremony was not executed properly.

***

I BUMPED into long-lost friend **Cherie Gil** at the wake of **Ricky Lo**'s mom. I've always admired Cherie and in many ways I can relate to her colorful life as I'm still struggling to go through mine with flying colors. I asked her if she is finally staying here for good since she's busy doing "Bituin" (her daily telenovela with **Nora Aunor**).

"You know me, I don't want to stay in any place for too long," she said. "But of course, my roots will always be here. By the end of October, I'll be flying to Italy to join my husband and kids."

"Among all the places you've been to, what's the most beautiful one you've seen?"

She smiled. "Anywhere can be a wonderful place if you look around with fresh eyes and you are with the ones who really love you."

Spoken like a true citizen of the world.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare @yahoo.com

Why Boy Abunda sounds like an expert

TV HOST and show biz guru Boy Abunda often watches his taped interviews so he can dissect and critique his performance as well as the entire production.

"When I watch my work, I realize that I am not doing it alone," says Boy. "There are so many factors to consider: the lights, the sounds, the editing, the set design. I may be the frontliner, but the end product is a result of the work of so many people. That's what the technology is all about. That's what television is all about."

That is especially true with his one-hour gabfest on ANC, "Private Conversations with Boy Abunda (PCBA)" (Thursday, 9 p.m.). As on his other ABS-CBN 2 shows, "ETC." and "The Buzz," an impressive dream team is behind Boy on PCBA.

"When you realize that you, as a host, are a product of many hands, many minds, you become more respectful of the discipline," he says. "More respectful of your lights man, of your sound man, of your cameraman. They are just as integral to the material as you are."

If Boy is always in his elements during an interview and sounds confident with expertise and authority, in addition to his usual wit and candor, it's because he has an able team of researchers led by Backroom's Almed Garcia.

Almed, who has been with Boy for many years, is always present during PCBA tapings, making sure her boss is at his best.

TV director Arnel Natividad also works with Boy on the Sunday afternoon show biz show "The Buzz."

"He always comes in well-prepared," Arnel says of the talk show host. "He's like a well-oiled machine."

Still, Boy is humble enough to acknowledge other people's expertise, according to the director.

"He listens," Arnel says. "He's not afraid to ask questions when he's not familiar or comfortable with something."

In sum, their working relationship is marked by mutual trust and respect.

"In the same manner, I listen to him also," the director adds.

When Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando appeared on PCBA recently, Arnel noticed that Boy's line of questioning focused too much on policy and not enough on the man's personal life. Without batting an eyelash, Boy adjusted his line of questioning.

"You really have to be flexible," Boy later explains to his hosting workshop students. "Like we taped the Bayani Fernando episode a week in advance. By the time it went on air, there could be new policy developments. So it was also wise to ask questions about his family, his childhood."

PCBA associate producer Gasper Gozo says working with Boy is a blast, never boring.

DREAM TEAM. Boy Abunda and his "Private Conversations" team, including (from left, standing) Rhobee Pilares, Almed Garcia, Gasper Gozo, Gigi Javier, (seated) Anne Torres, Arnel Natividad, Russel Santos and Bel Acosta.

"It's fun working with him," Gasper says. "But at the same time you respect him.

"There's always this element of surprise," he adds. "The production staffers always brace themselves for the unexpected. You never know what the guests will say. Especially with the type of questions Mr. Abunda asks."

The other members of the PCBA team are executive producer Anne Torres (of "The Correspondents") and floor director Russel Santos.

The recent Star Awards for TV recently cited Boy as Best Celebrity Talk Show Host (for PCBA) and Best Show biz-Oriented Talk Show Host. He shared the latter award with "The Buzz" co-host Kris Aquino.

To top it all off, PCBA brought home the Star trophy for Best Celebrity Talk Show.

Gary V to revisit Bacolod City and tour US in busy months

GARY V.

GARY Valenciano, Katha's Best Male Performer, just won't stop.

After successful US and Australia tours and sold-out performances at the Virgin Café, Hard Rock Café, Captain's Bar and a critically-acclaimed series at Onstage in Greenbelt, Gary V will perform in a concert at the De La Salle Gym in Bacolod City on Oct. 19. The show is entitled "Gary V: One 2One...Live in Bacolod."

Bacolod is very close to Gary's heart since his Kundirana mentor, Bro. Gus Boquer, now resides there and is principal of the University of La Salle Bacolod.

Gary's special guest will be Kyla. Also to be featured in the Bacolod show are May Ann Casal-Soriano, Melissa Fontano, the Manouvres and the Powerplay. Mon Faustino is musical director.

Expected to excite the fans are his duet with Kyla, "Can We Just Stop and Talk Awhile," from his "One to One" album, and "The Warrior is a Child" from his revive album.

The benefit concert is a collaboration between Manila Genesis Entertainment and Management, GV Productions Inc. and the Amity Fire Brigade of Bacolod.

Gary recently won the hearts of Davao people when he performed in the PAL Intersports Tournament dinner and at the Gaisano Mall. As Unicef ambassador, he also visited the Davao Jail and sang and ministered to the minor youth offenders.

He also went to the Women's and Children's Protection Unit of the Davao Medical Center and interacted with some of the sexually abused kids.

In Catbalogan, Samar, Gary staged the city's first live concert, complete with his state of the art sound and lighting system from Manila. He also toured some schools in Samar province with representatives of the Unicef.

Gary's other show this month are in the Department of Justice Ladies Circle fund raiser on Oct. 23 at the NBC Tent for women prisoners' livelihood program; JIL anniversary celebration, Araneta Coliseum, Oct. 25; Vina Morales' concert, Folk Arts Theater, Oct. 26; Philippine Parenting Convention (PPC), NBC Tent, Oct. 27.

And then Gary is off to the United States again for another series of shows in California, starting with a repeat of his Grand Olympic concert on Nov. 1 in Los Angeles. He will sing at the Berkley Community Theater in the Bay Area on Nov. 2 and at the San Diego Convention Center on Nov. 8.

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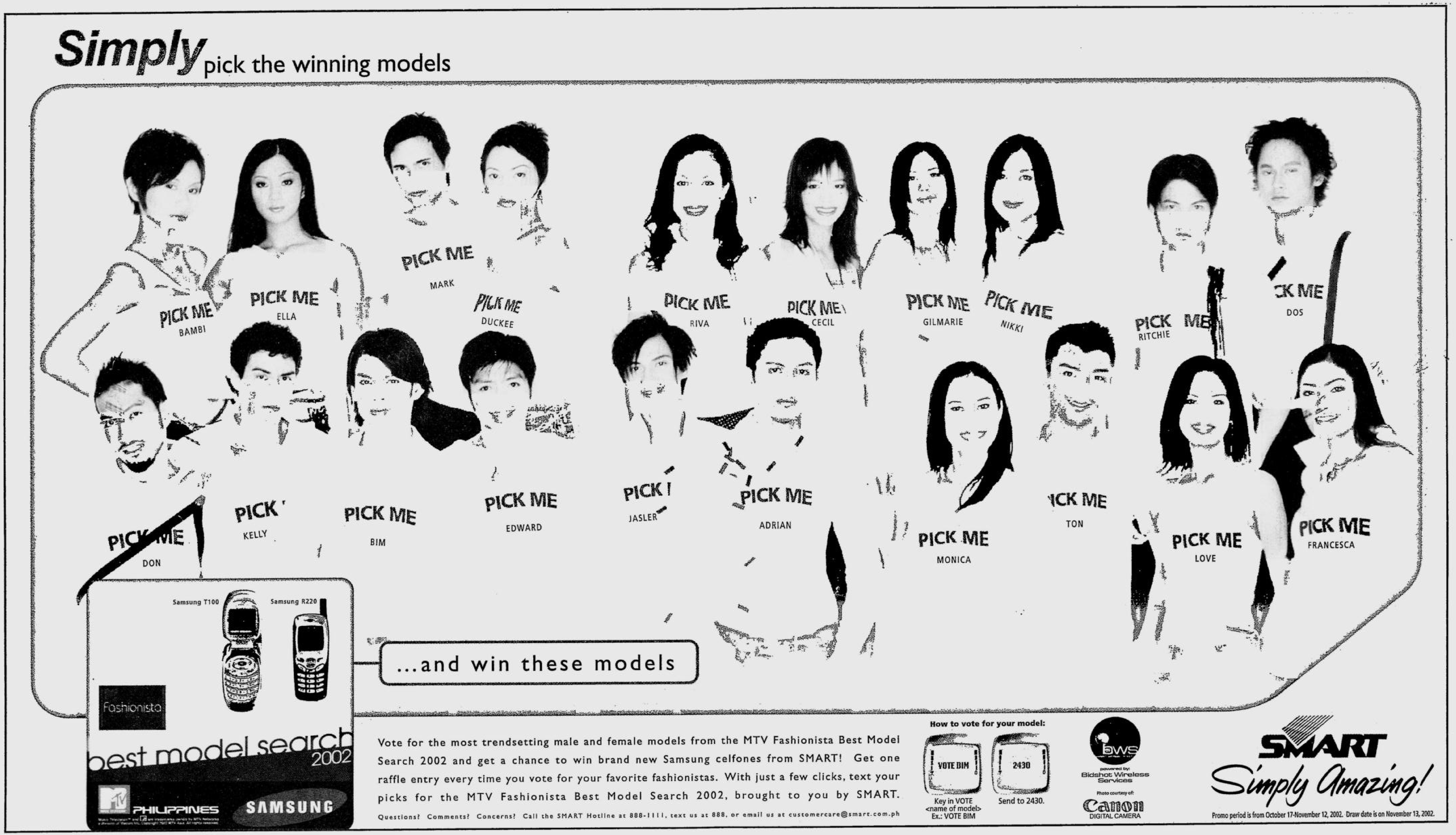

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Peso recovers to 52.96 to a dollar

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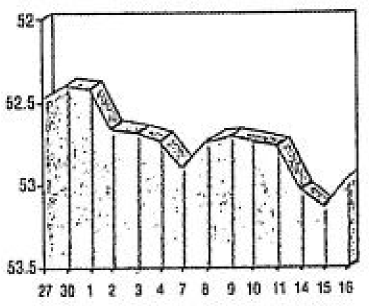


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 52.96= $1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 16, 2002

¥ 124.38= $1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 16, 2002

GOLD: $314.-314.50
per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 16, 2002

Blue chips lift stock mart

BLUE chips, led by property giant Ayala Land, pushed the stock market to a slightly higher close yesterday, but worries on the country's fiscal deficit capped gains.

"Other markets like the Dow are going up, but there's one thing that makes the Philippine market different. We've been downgraded by Morgan Stanley because of our budget deficit problem. And that is why we are being looked down upon by investors," said AB Capital economic analyst Jose Vistan.

The main index managed to break out of a two-day losing streak to close 0.48 point or 0.05 percent higher at 1,048.17.

Value turnover dropped to P275.9 million from Tuesday's P373.5 million.

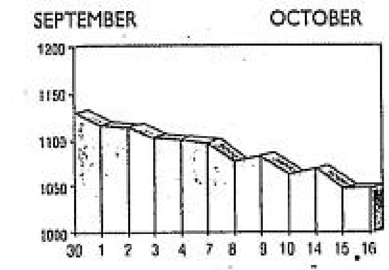
Losers outpaced gainers 28 to 22 and there were 35 stocks unchanged.

"Beside peace and order concerns and the weak peso, the market's major concern is the deficit. We don't expect the market to sustain its rise," Vistan said.

"We see it testing the 1,000 psychological level next week. There's no positive news in sight and the January to September budget deficit data is coming."

Reuters

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



By Clarissa S. Batino

HEEDING the advice of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, relatives of many overseas Filipino workers took profit and sold their dollars, in the process helping the peso recover yesterday to 52.96 to $1.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said many OFW families sold their dollars alongside local banks that took advantage of the high exchange rate.

The profit-taking among OFWs, banks and exporters raised the volume of transactions at the Philippine Dealing System to $161.5 million from $104 million last Tuesday.

Tetangco said the central bank had nothing to do with the peso's recovery.

Traders credited the rebound of other regional currencies for the peso's improvement. The local currency opened at yesterday's lowest of P53.13 to $1. The opening rate was already better than Tuesday's closing of P53.135.

A trader from a foreign bank said the peso's recovery was largely triggered by the recovery of the Thai baht and the Japanese yen.

"We are already seeing some correction and we hope this would continue. The BSP believes that the peso's volatility is only temporary," Tetangco said.

The central bank official said the local currency would surely stabilize within the quarter, possibly even before November as overseas workers send dollars to pay for the tuition fees of their children for the second semester.

Companies with dollar requirements, on the other hand, should wait for the peso to recover before buying dollars, Tetangco cautioned.

The central bank, he added, has started to spot substantial selling among OFWs and the volume is expected to increase next week toward the start of the second semester in November. The dollar inflows should go up further in December.

Tetangco said the central bank saw no reason to intervene as it only injects liquidity by selling dollars when exchange rate movements are very sharp.

This year, the BSP expects OFW remittances to hit $8 billion, up 30 percent from 2001. Exports should also grow by more than 4 percent from a contraction of 15.7 percent last year.

The peso declines when demand for dollars increases and supply is not sufficient. This is the reason why the central bank sells dollars occasionally to prop up the peso.

Dev't of Malampaya oil prospect to cost $400M

By Abigail L. Ho

SHELL Philippines Exploration BV (SPEX) will need $300 million to $400 million for the possible commercial development of the Malampaya-10 oil wells off the island of Palawan.

In an interview yesterday, SPEX managing director Jeremy Cliff said an extended well test was still underway to determine the viability of continuing oil production in the area.

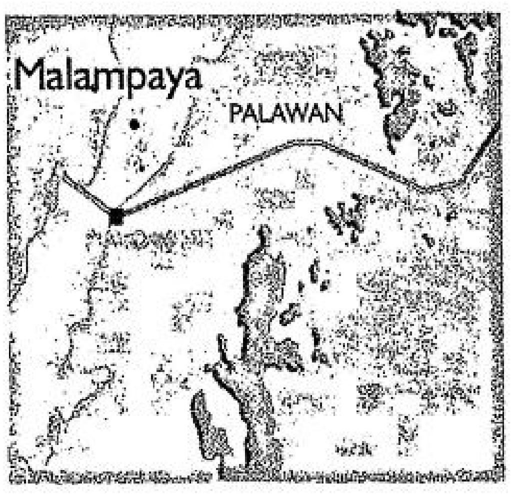
"We have to talk to the partners and the government. It's going to be a very tough job to come up with a commercial proposition. It will also depend on the shareholders' willingness to put money (in this project). Our difficulty right now is that the well itself was drilled in the best part of the field so we don't know (the yield for the other parts)," he said.

He said the range of reserves for the oil rim could lie somewhere between 30 million and 40 million barrels with pricing placed at $20 per barrel.

The earliest developments for the oil rim could come sometime next year, he said.

SPEX spokesperson Ding Roco earlier said data evaluation would take around six months to a year. The extended well test ended in June.

From December to April, SPEX flowed 1.2 million barrels of oil from the well.



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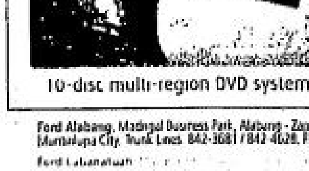
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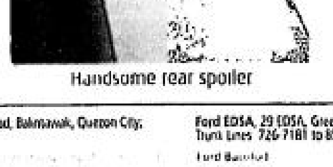
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Harmed forces

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

OUR Armed Forces, according to the Bali bombing reaction stories that reporters actually write in their sleep, are in a state of "heightened alert."

In our military, they take pleasure in having several levels of alertness. Our military's alertness is like greeting cards. They have alertness levels for all occasions.

But word is going around that our Armed Forces only raise themselves to the highest level of alertness on very limited occasions, such as when the chow is ready.

Today is probably one of those rare instances that the military is on "heightened alert." Fear grips the entire nation. There is a real danger that FPJ will run and win in 2004.

* * *

BUT that is not the reason why the top brass in our Armed Forces are doing all that they can to heighten the military's alertness level.

Actually the reason is terrorism. We have all sorts of terrorism. Right here in my barangay, for instance, my next door neighbor is being terrorized by his wife.

Because of news on terrorism, plus news of an impending war against terrorism, naturally, our Armed Forces should try to lessen the harm to the public psyche.

They issue to the public the usual stuff—a little "high alert" here and "prepared" there, plus a bit of "nothing to fear" here and "everything under control" there.

* * *

HERE are a couple of examples of comforting words from the men in whose hands, and high-powered guns, we entrust our lives.

Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion, spokesperson of the Armed Forces, as quoted in the Business World, has this to say:

"We don't see any possibility of a spillover but we must be prepared for any eventuality since these are terrorist groups and Indonesia is our neighbor."

Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong, head of the WPD, as quoted in the Metro section of the INQUIRER, follows up that brilliance with this gem of a quotation:

"We are doing our best to make sure it is safe night and day in the tourist belt."

* * *

THIS problem of terrorism, if I remember correctly, has been around for some time. Look, boss, the tourists are gone. Nowadays our only tourist is the go-go-go Richard Gordon.

It's only now that Chief Supt. Bulaong realizes, finally, that he and his men should make sure it is safe night and day in the tourist belt, or conveyor belt, or whatever belt.

Brig. Gen. Purification sees no possibility of a spillover from the Bali bombing. Yet he spills the beans (i.e. secret—for the sake of FPJ). The military must be prepared.

For what? I thought there will be no spillover. Let me see if I got him right: So we must be prepared for something that will not happen. Really, how silly is that?

* * *

THAT is the usual double-talk we get from public officials. I don't know if they believe their own double-talk. I'm just certain they only create more confusion.

If you don't mind my saying it, boss, we have heard it all before. As it is, despite all the, er, "assurance" from all of you, we seem to still have the same old problem.

The economy is hurting. Still, the headlines scream that somebody in the Armed Forces wants to take credit, all for the sake of sucking up. This is something spawned by too much politics.

* * *

SURELY, too much politics can only harm the Armed Forces. And so what do we call our military—harmed forces? Sorry, I can't resist the temptation.

Anyway, since our soldiers cannot solve the problem in the field, our politicos are taking up the cudgels for the military. They are using their same old weapon—debate!

Today the politicians are bombarding us with their grand schemes. Every politico has a brilliant paradigm—shifting proposal against terrorism.

Thus they try to solve a field problem with a lot of talk. I can't say if it's all a waste of saliva. I know the solutions will not last. It's like glueing shoes with saliva!

* * *

SUDDENLY, the idea of a nationwide ID system is reborn. A sense of urgency now pervades the political arena to help printing companies make money for the ID cards.

If my old age serves me right, such an idea of an ID system was conceived as early as . . . let me see, well, it was under martial rule. By the Metro Manila Commission!

At that time, the idea was to stop the migration from the countryside to the urban area. Nobody believed even then that a simple card could stop such an intense force.

Well, if just about anybody could produce fake liquor, fake passports, fake securities, or fake identities (take a bow, MJ) how difficult would it be to fake an ID card?

* * *

OUR politicos even think that we don't need more laws to fight terrorism. Thus they are talking about the anti-terrorism bill in Congress again. For what reason, is hard to say.

You see, the last time each and everyone of us checked, terrorism—meaning, all sorts of terrorist activities—was already against the law.

Bombing is against the law, not only if it kills innocent people, but also if it kills the terrorists inside the jail before they can attempt any death-defying escape.

Last I heard, kidnapping is also against the law, whether it is done by gangs or by terrorists, and whether it is for ransom or just for fun.

* * *

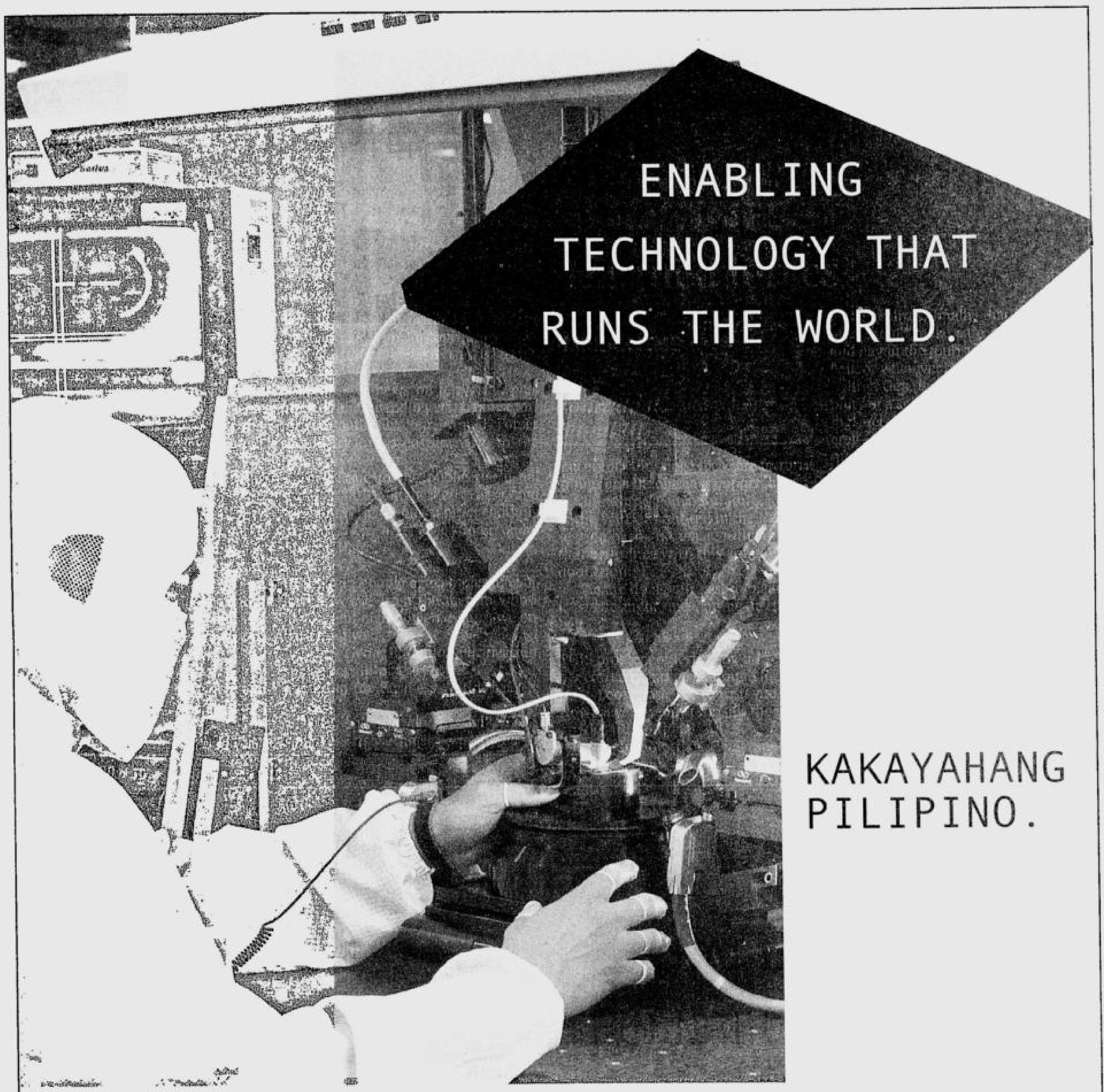
COME on, before anything else, let us try to do our jobs well. This should apply particularly to all our men in uniform.

Look what happened to those two captured Abu Sayyaf members. They were already in jail, and by some miracle, they were able to escape.

So tell us, boss, do we really need new laws and ID system to prevent such a stupid thing from happening?

And by the way, we also don't need our gallant generals to speak in double tongues.

We're up to here already!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KAKAYAHANG PILIPINO.

Pagdating sa electronics, tunay na maaasahan ang husay at galing ng manggagawang Pilipino.

Marahil ay 'di ninyo alam, pero dito sa Pilipinas ginagawa at binubuo ang maraming electronic components at products na ginagamit sa mundo. Gaya nga ng Digital Signal Processor (DSP) na main component ng mga cellphones, ang Pentium processor na "brain" at disk drives na "memory" ng mga computers, ang Electronic Braking System (EBS) na safety feature ng mga sasakyan at ang servo controls na nagpapagalaw sa pakpak ng mga eroplano. Ang mga produktong electronics na ito, at marami pang iba, ay mahalagang mga export products na ipinapadala sa iba't-ibang dako ng daigdig tulad ng America, Europe at Asia.

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BTr to issue P5-B notes

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE BUREAU of the Treasury yesterday announced that it would issue P5 billion worth of peso-denominated notes early next month.

In a statement, National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said: "Our objectives for this transaction are three-fold: First, to provide qualified buyers with alternative fixed income instruments that are subject to corporate income tax; second to achieve lower borrowing cost; and third, to tap other sources of financing not previously tapped by the Government."

BTr has given HSBC the conditional mandate to structure and manage the notes issue.

Details of the transaction would be announced as soon as these are finalized, the BTr said.

No mention was made, however, on whether the proceeds would be used to fund this year's or next year's requirements.

The government was reportedly facing a P180-billion budget deficit this year, overshooting the original target of P130 billion.

Edeza, however, earlier said that the government has already covered this year's requirements and that future borrowings would be used to fund next year's $2.3-billion to $2.4-billion funding requirements.

Roxas declares stock dividend

LISTED company Roxas Holdings Inc. (formerly Central Azucarera Don Pedro) declared a 20-percent stock dividend during its board of directors meeting last week. RHI is one of the country's largest sugar manufacturing companies.

The board also approved the increase in the authorized capital stock of the company from P1 billion to P1.5 billion.

The stock dividend declaration, as well as the capital hike which requires an amendment in RHI's articles of incorporation, will need to be ratified by shareholders in the company's general meeting scheduled on Nov. 27, 2002.

RHI has a progressive dividend policy that commits to provide adequate returns on the

Assemblers hit DTI's selective ban on used light truck imports

nBy Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MEMBERS of the Truck Manufacturers Association are up in arms over the Department of Trade and Industry's decision to keep the door open for the entry of used light truck imports through the Subic Freeport Zone.

TMA chair Francis Nacua said the industry had requested a meeting with the DTI to clarify what the agency termed as a selective ban on used vehicle imports through Subic.

"First, the government promised a total ban. Next, the government wanted to exempt 18-ton trucks which was later broadened to cover 6-ton trucks and buses. Now, we hear that all used light trucks would be allowed to come in through Subic," Nacua said.

Nacua said a watered-down ban would adversely impact on the viability of the vehicle industry where 70 percent of all units sold were commercial vehicles such as Asian utility vehicles, pickup trucks, vans and sport utility vehicles.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II earlier revealed the government's plan for a selective ban on used vehicle imports going through Subic.

The DTI estimated that 50,000 used vehicles were imported through Subic last year, which was equivalent to 70 percent of all brand new vehicles sold in the same year.

Roxas said Malacañang would issue within the month an Executive Order imposing a selective ban on all second-hand vehicles particularly in the Subic Freeport except those allowed by laws such as special purpose vehicles and pre-owned units of returning Filipinos or *balikbayans*.

Even car dealers are disappointed by the DTI's flip-flopping on the used vehicle importation issue. The Philippine Automotive Association said that it would pursue a legal case against used vehicle importers even with the issuance of an EO.

The PAA claimed that the EO was pointless because it would merely declare as illegal an action that was considered illegal under current laws. PAA is set to appeal its case asking the Land Transportation Office to stop the registration of used vehicle imports after the Olongapo Regional Trial Court dismissed the case.

The PAA is contesting the legality of SBMA's second-hand importation because the country's governing rules explicitly prohibit the importation of RHD vehicles and second-hand imports were allowed only on a very limited basis, such as through the *balikbayan* program, and for limited types such as special purpose vehicles.

EYE CENTER OF ASIA
Asian Eye Institute (AEI) founders Oscar M. Lopez and Dr. Felipe I. Tolentino flank Harvard School of Medicine faculty member Roland Houle during AEI's first year anniversary celebration in Rockwell Center, Makati City. AEI continues to be a vital resource in the diagnosis and treatment of various eye diseases and has become a leading ophthalmology center in the Philippines and Asia. It has 14 examination rooms, including a children's room and play area, and four fully equipped operating rooms for outpatient surgery.

Q3 GDP growth seen on track with target

By Clarissa S. Batino

ECONOMIC Planning Secretary Dante Canlas yesterday said the growth in gross domestic product in the third quarter was on track with the government's target of between 3.9 and 4.9 percent.

"I think we are on track with what we have estimated for the third quarter," said Canlas.

He said he could not validate earlier pronouncements of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho that the economy as measured by the growth in GDP had improved by 4 percent in the third quarter.

Canlas said GDP growth in the third quarter was usually slower compared with the first semester and fourth quarter growth rates.

"GDP growth usually kicks in during the last three months of the year. And normally, growth in the second semester is higher than the first half," said the economic planning chief.

The GDP grew by 4.1 percent during the first half, which was in line with the full-year target growth of 4 to 4.5 percent. In the second quarter, alone, the GDP accelerated by 4.5 percent.

Canlas said the growth in the farm sector, as expected, slowed down to 2.7 percent from an improvement of 3.5 percent in the first half.

He said the government had started to address the decline in agriculture by increasing lending to the farm sector, enhancing productivity, and putting in place measures to mitigate the impact of the impending El Niño phenomenon.

Canlas said the industry and services sector would compensate for the slowdown in agriculture.

Destiny scouting for alternative programs

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER losing five top-rating Star TV channels, Destiny Cable Inc. is now scouting for alternative programs from other providers while still hoping to strike an "amicable settlement" with program provider Star Group Ltd.

Beda Mañalac, vice president for corporate planning and business development of Destiny's parent firm Solid Group Inc., told reporters that the cable operator's primary goal now was to retain its subscribers so it was already scouting for possible replacements for the programs it lost.

"Although we're still hopeful that Star will settle this matter amicably, we know that we can talk to other program providers that offer quality programs. Our goal right now is to keep our subscribers. New channels of the same quality will be key to achieving that," he said.

Star Group pulled the plug on Destiny for five of its top channels—ESPN, Star Sports, Star World, Star Movies and National Geographic—when their contract lapsed on Oct. 15. However, the program provider did not give any reason for not renewing Destiny's contract.

In a last ditch effort to retain these five channels, Destiny on Oct. 10 petitioned for a temporary restraining order on the program pullout with the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 137. The petition, however, was denied by Makati RTC Branch 137 Judge Santiago Ranada.

He said Destiny was not considering another legal recourse at this point in time although a person familiar with the matter disclosed that the cable operator would be filing a petition for mandatory injunction, which could force Star Group to resume feed of the five channels.

Mañalac neither confirmed nor denied this.

GOINGS-ON

Shoemart realignment

IN line with its corporate realignment, Shoemart transferred its retail assets to SM Mart Inc. The non-retail assets were retained by Shoemart.

This will enable the company to be more competitive in the retail merchandising industry. It will also allow it to focus on the renovations of its stores and on making the retail environment more exciting for its customers.

The restructuring was done to strengthen the company's retail assets in preparation for a possible initial public offering.

Philam's deposit base hits P5B

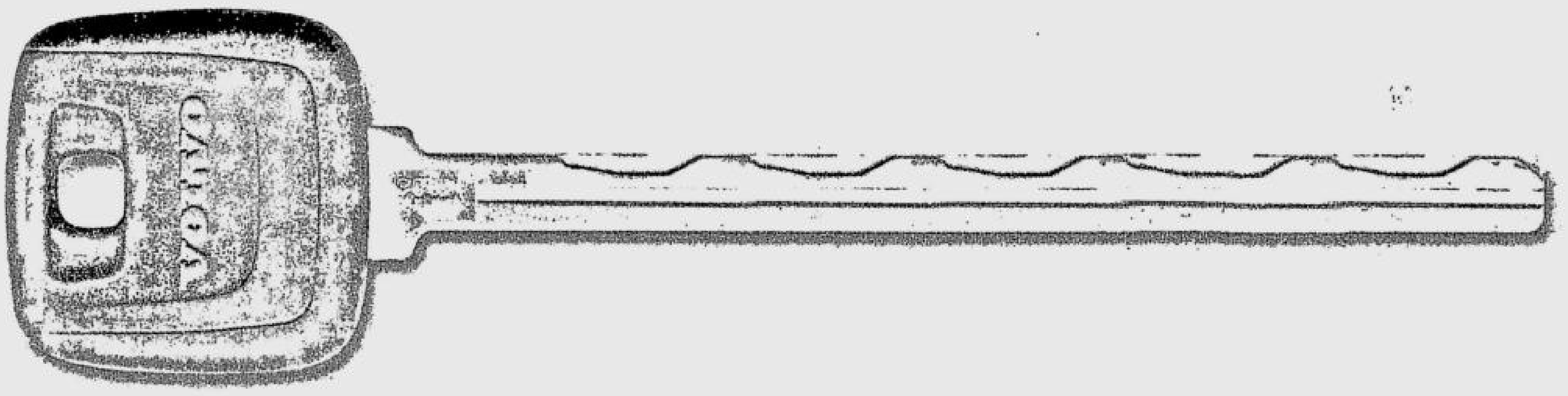
PHILAM Bank posted total deposits of P5 billion by the end of the first semester this year, an increase of 61 percent from the year-ago level.

"We view the growth in our deposits as a recognition by our depositors and clients of the stability of our bank, backed up by our parent company, AIG, and the Philam Group, as well as of our unique product offers and attention to service," Rolando C. Tanchanco, Philam Bank president, said.

Philam Bank is a member of the Philam Group of Companies and AIG Consumer Finance Group (CFG), the consumer finance arm of the American International Group Inc. (AIG).

Philam Bank's growth stemmed from its acquisition of additional branches and its newly launched AIG Preferred Banking business, which provides personalized and competitive returns for customers who demand a consistently high quality of service.

The bank also reported an impressive performance in auto loans and credit cards, both traditionally difficult markets. It has 10 branches in key cities including Cebu, Iloilo, and Davao.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MODEL	LCP	%DP	DP	12 MOS.	18 MOS.	24 MOS.	36 MOS.	48 MOS.	60 MOS.
S40	P1,595,000	20%	319,000	109,439	75,207	58,697	41,690	33,264	29,227
V40	P1,695,000	20%	339,000	116,583	80,110	62,529	44,413	35,434	31,134
S80	P2,625,000	20%	525,000	182,998	125,744	98,140	69,709	55,620	48,871
S80 T6	P3,800,000	20%	760,000	266,913	183,397	143,147	101,672	81,124	71,278
S60	P2,195,000	20%	439,000	152,290	104,648	81,676	58,012	46,289	40,669
S60 T5	P2,595,000	20%	519,000	180,855	124,272	96,993	68,895	54,971	48,299
V70	P2,600,000	20%	520,000	181,203	124,523	97,188	69,028	55,077	48,392
XC70	P2,945,000	20%	589,000	205,836	141,452	110,399	78,416	62,567	54,974

*You can also avail of other downpayment terms (25% to 50%).

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Bourse moves to cut trading cost of rural brokerage units

By Doris C. Dumlao

LEUNG

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is seeking to revive the province-based stock brokerage industry by using technology to lower their cost of operations.

In a recent press briefing, PSE chief technology officer Ed Ocampo said the local bourse was adopting a new system called virtual private network (VPN) that would significantly slash the cost of hooking up to the trading system to execute trades.

"The provincial brokers will benefit the most from this system. With VPN, we are hoping to revive the provincial brokers," Ocampo said.

PSE president Ernest Leung said this would complement efforts from the PSE to perk up domestic investor interest in equities through a forthcoming provincial road show. Recently, the PSE conducted a similar road show for foreign investors in Hong Kong and Singapore.

Some of the PSE member-brokers operate branches in growth areas outside of Metro Manila like Cebu, Baguio, Davao and Iloilo, Leung noted.

At present, Ocampo estimated that provincial brokers spend about P19,000-P20,000 to hook up to the PSE's trading system.

Not all PSE brokers, however, can afford to put up provincial branches due to cost considerations, especially amid the thin value turnover at the stock market.

With the VPN, the cost of using leased lines will go down from about P13,000 to P5,000 and of dial-up lines from P3,000 to P2,000, Ocampo stressed.

The VPN is seen to reduce the cost of brokers because they will simply pay a flat fee to the carrier without having to buy an expensive modem. The VPN will also allow the PSE to open up more services to the brokers.

Right now, the leased line can only connect to the PSE's MAKtrade system while the VPN can allow them to connect to the PSE website and other services that the exchange will provide in the future.

The PSE is already testing the VPN system with various telecommunication providers, Ocampo said.

The PSE is also upgrading its PABX and fax systems. The faxes will be put through the PABX server so all faxes coming in will be going directly to the e-mail addresses of the users in the exchange.

The local bourse is likewise pilot-testing a system to allow off-site trading or that which does not require physical presence on the trading floor.

Interphil to buy back ₱100M worth of shares

By Elena R. Torrijos

PUBLICLY listed Interphil Laboratories Inc., a contract manufacturer of pharmaceutical products, yesterday announced plans to buy back up to 100 million of its outstanding common shares or equivalent to 17 percent of the company's outstanding capital stock.

In a statement, company officials said the proposed share buyback was based on a recommendation made by an independent financial adviser, ATR-Kim Eng Capital Partners, which was engaged by the company to assist management in structuring and implementing a program to enhance shareholder value.

Interphil said that it felt that the below-par value share price did not reflect the true value of the company.

Trading of Interphil's shares has not been very active. Its latest share price stood at 87 centavos.

The company said that it had sufficient retained earnings to cover the repurchase program.

Interphil is a member of the Zuellig Group of Companies in the Philippines. The Zuellig group is engaged in domestic and regional activities ranging from distribution, marketing, manufacturing of health care and pharmaceutical products.

Interphil currently is a contract manufacturer for more than 50 multinational pharmaceutical companies and produces more than 1,000 different brands and dosage forms annually, representing about 40 percent of the total drugstore sales in the Philippines.

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Short-Term Lending Rate
For the period 16 - 22 October 2002
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For details please contact:
Ms. Maribeth Banot, Tel. No. 893-4480
Ms. Sylvia Encomienda, Tel. No. 893-4974.
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Chinatrust exceeds 2002 profit target

CHINATRUST Commercial Bank Corp., the local unit of a leading Taiwanese bank, yesterday reported that it made a net profit of P373 million in the first nine months of this year, or more than its full-year target of P370 million.

The nine-month profit figure was also double the P183 million recorded by the commercial bank for the same period last year.

In a statement, Chinatrust Bank Phils. president Joey Bermudez said "hefty trading gains, a steady stream of net interest margin and tight management of portfolio quality accounted for this improved performance."

Bermudez also disclosed that as of end-September, the bank's non-performing loan ratio stood at 3.7 percent or way below the industry average of 17.5 percent.

This was after the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas changed its policy in computing NPLs and allowed banks to exclude fully covered non-performing loans when reporting the NPL figures.

Chinatrust Bank Phils.' allowance for probable loan losses was equivalent to 86 percent of non-performing loans while the bank's capital adequacy ratio was 29 percent or much higher than the 10-percent regulatory requirement.

The bank's total resources stood at P16.39 billion or 5 percent more than last year primarily because of a 17-percent expansion in loan portfolio.

Short term funds and marketable securities declined by P1 billion or 18 percent from end last year.

Dev't . . .

From page B1

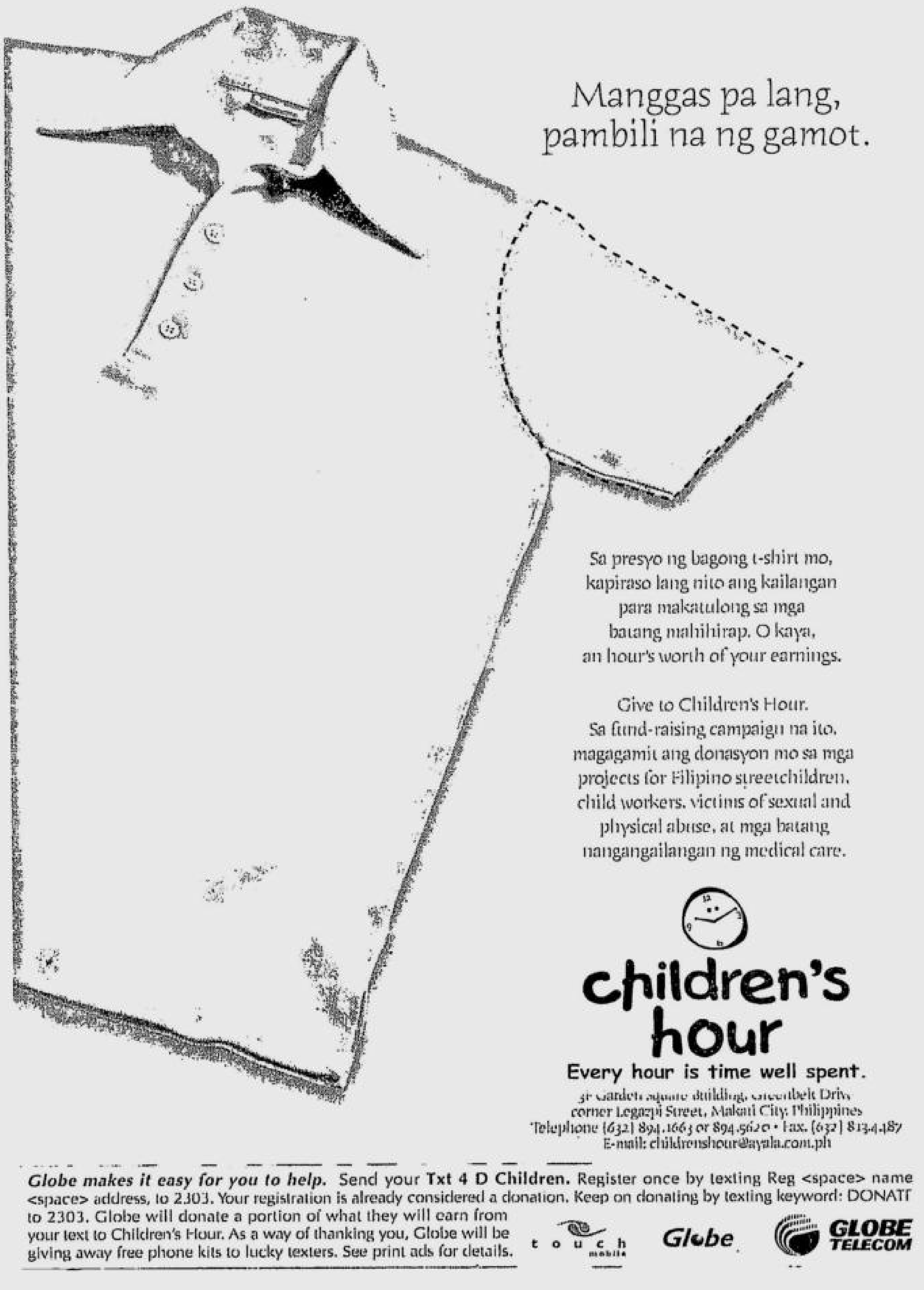
Meanwhile, Cliff said Malampaya could supply up to 3,500 megawatts of power but its capacity has yet to be pushed to full potential.

He added that Malampaya was now capable of generating 2,700 MW of power but only around 1,000 to 1,400 MW was being used by existing power plants, including the Lopez Group's 1,000-MW Sta. Rita plant and 500-MW San Lorenzo plant.

"There is a lot more capacity in Malampaya than is being used. What's the incentive to draw for more (gas) when what's being drawn now is not being used? The transmission concerns that have been addressed is limited. It's still a matter of (government) policy now, like how much coal to import or indigenous gas to use," he said.

The Malampaya natural gas project in Batangas exports 6,000 to 7,000 barrels of oil per day to Singapore, he said, but this could still hit 15,000 to 20,000 barrels if it would produce to full potential.

Other revenue sources also include the export of condensates, or the by-product of natural gas used for heavy oil blends, refinery and petrochemical feedstocks.



Sa presyo ng bagong t-shirt mo, kapiraso lang nito ang kailangan para makatulong sa mga batang mahihirap. O kaya, an hour's worth of your earnings.

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, October 16, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18	18	18	35,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41.5	42.5	41	41.5	1,253,100
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27.5	27.5	27	27	70,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32.5	33	31.5	32	133,100
Philippine National Bank	27	27	27	27	3,400
Security Bank Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	300
Union Bank of the Phil.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	2,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1100	1160	1100	1160	3,840
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	930	935	925	935	10,540
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	18.5	18.5	18	18	17,800
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	530,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	420	420	417.5	417.5	630
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	100,000
Piltel	0.22	0.22	0.2	0.21	550,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	110,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	250	252.5	237	242	108,210
Ivantage Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	24,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	16	18	16	17	40,000
Manila Electric Co. B	25	25.5	23.5	23.75	1,070,300
Petron Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.38	1.4	2,147,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.12	1.16	1,586,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.2	2.22	2.2	2.2	3,619,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	20,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.1	97,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.5	508,700
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32.5	32.5	32.5	32.5	16,500
San Miguel Corp. A	54	54.5	54	54.5	213,600
San Miguel Corp. B	58.5	59	58.5	59	200,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	400,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.9	4.95	4.85	4.9	589,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.28	2.28	2.26	2.26	6,963,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	15,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	40,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.115	0.12	0.115	0.12	90,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.2	0.2	6,470,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.048	0.05	0.048	0.05	1,500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	6,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.5	475,200
Global Equities Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	500,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	10,000
Ionics Inc.	3	3	3	3	11,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	420,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.5	0.5	370,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	880,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.18	9,950,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	2,660,000
Music Corp.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	1,000,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	10,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	100,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Jardine Davies Inc.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	2,500
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	6	6	6	6	5,000
Macondray Plastics Inc	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	2,000
Pryce Corp.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	700,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.33	500,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	120,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	60,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	18.25	18.25	17.5	17.75	112,600
Jollibee Warrants	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series J	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	2,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.1	5.1	4.9	5.1	9,853,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	350,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.02	1.02	0.99	1	2,540,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	90,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.3	3,798,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	10,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0028	0.003	0.0028	0.003	10,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0024	0.0026	0.0024	0.0026	3,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	12,000,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,521,780	73,171,750.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	85,407,540	129,776,135.00
PRO	16,951,000	72,590,600.00
Mining	13,120,000	80,800.00
OIL	14,000,000	34,400.00
GRAND TOTALS :	131,000,320	275,653,685.00

DISCLOSURES

FAIRMONT Holdings Inc. postponed for next year its annual stockholders' meeting earlier scheduled for Oct. 29. The postponement was made to allow the company to review its business directions and assess merits of proposed projects.

* * *

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc. bought 98,200 of its own shares at P32 per share.

* * *

EQUITABLE PCI Bank Inc. disclosed the promotion of Annie Ngo from head of branches division to senior vice president.

* * *

MUSIC Corp. will abandon its proposed group restructuring plan approved last year. Also, the company will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 9 with record date on Nov. 8.

* * *

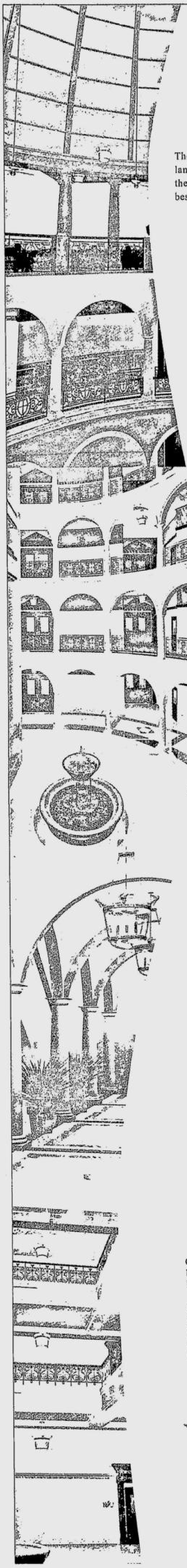
SOLID Group Inc. moved its special stockholders' meeting from Oct. 24 to Nov. 21, 10 a.m. at the Fairways Dining Room of Manila Golf and Country Club, Makati City.

* * *

BOULEVARD Holdings Inc. and Centro Escolar University both confirmed the termination of their stock transfer agreement with Security Bank effective Dec. 3, 2002. Both companies are still in the process of finding possible replacements. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

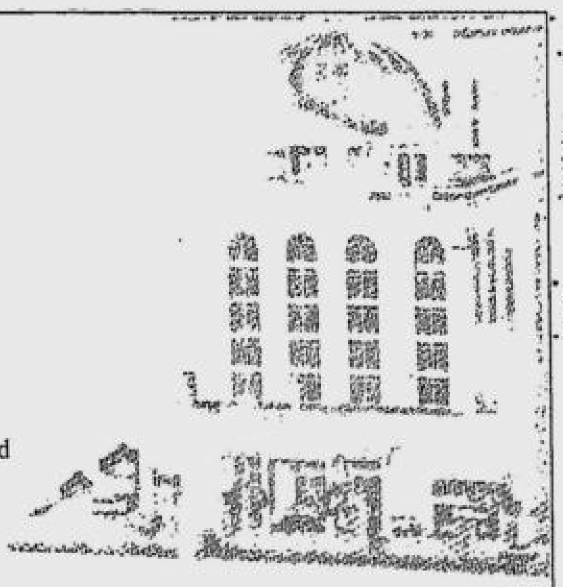
CURRENCIES

Oct. 16, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	12.195122	1.000000	53.1300
Japan	Yen	0.097854	0.008024	0.4263
United Kingdom	Pound	18.920732	1.551500	82.4312
Hong Kong	Dollar	1.563573	0.128213	6.8120
Switzerland	Franc	8.161524	0.669245	35.5570
Canada	Dollar	7.689720	0.630557	33.5015
Singapore	Dollar	6.764171	0.554662	29.4692
Australia	Dollar	6.663268	0.546388	29.0296
Bahrain	Dinar	32.349524	2.652661	140.9359
Saudi Arabia	Rial	3.251951	0.266660	14.1676
Brunei	Dollar	6.785622	0.556421	29.5626
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.001317	0.000108	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.276159	0.022645	1.2031
UAE	Dirham	3.320293	0.272264	14.4654
Korea	Won	0.009756	0.000800	0.0425
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.082000	4.3567
Argentina	Real	0.278232	0.273224	14.5164
Brazil	Real	0.264845	0.260078	13.8179
Denmark	Kroner	0.134598	0.132175	7.0225
India	Rupee	0.021101	0.020721	1.1009
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.268017	0.263193	13.9834
Mexico	New Peso	0.100895	0.099079	5.2641
New Zealand	Dollar	0.487987	0.479203	25.4601
Norway	Kroner	0.136832	0.134369	7.1390
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017275	0.016964	0.9013
South Africa	Rand	0.097670	0.095912	5.0958
Sweden	Kroner	0.110218	0.108234	5.7505
Syria	Pound	0.023039	0.022624	1.2020
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029054	0.028531	1.5159
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000708	0.000695	0.0369



SANCTUARIUM

Where memories are treasured.



The Sanctuarium is where memories of the dearest departed are kept alive. With 12 storeys creating a majestic landmark along Araneta Avenue corner Agno Street in Quezon City, it will be home to the largest columbarium and the most complete ecumenical facilities in the country. Strategically located and intelligently planned, it is the best alternative to today's crowded cemeteries and expensive memorial parks.

What is a Columbarium?
A columbarium is a structure that is lined with small vaults in which urns containing cremation remains can be stored safely and secure forever. It is an attractive, increasingly popular and affordable alternative to traditional outdoor cemeteries, aside from being more hygienic.

During the Roman Empire where cremation was widely practiced, cremated remains were placed in elaborate urns and kept in a columbaria.

The Everliving Company, Inc., a young and enterprising firm, now offers Filipinos a better choice to keep the memories of their departed loved ones safe and secure while providing living relatives with the comforts and convenience sorely lacking in outdoor cemeteries.

What exactly is Cremation?
Contrary to many people's belief that cremation is a burning of the body which results in ashes, cremation is actually a process wherein intense heat reduces the composition of the body to bone fragment. Cremation has it prehistoric roots when primitive men who revered fire as a deity sought protection for the deceased members of the family through cremation. Ancient Greeks believed that the burning of the body purified the soul and released it from its earthly form. In the 1800's, cremation returned to western culture as an aid to public health and to save land for the living.

How prevalent is the practice of cremation?
Changes in ethnic and cultural origins account for the rise in cremation rates. In Japan, the cremation rate is as high as 98 percent, in Hongkong, more than 75 percent, while in Great Britain and Sweden, the rate is 72 percent and 65 percent respectively.

What are the advantages?
It is simple and convenient. You don't need a plot of land to bury the dead. It is hassle and worry-free, less expensive than ordinary service and very sanitary because you store the cremated remains in a columbarium.

What is the reality of our cemeteries today?
Let's face it. Our cemeteries are overcrowded. You need to wiggle your way out of the pestering traffic mess to get there. They're virtually lacking in parking space and in most instances, there are none. Sometimes, your dead relatives get to share their tombs with homeless people. There's no shelter from the elements and they get flooded when it rains. You can't visit anytime you like for fear of your own security.

Aren't memorial parks considered more convenient and secure?
Well again, there's the problem of traffic. You are charged with monthly dues and cleaning maintenance. There's no shelter from the elements too. Visiting hours are limited. What's worse is. lots in memorial parks are getting more expensive.

How does the company come into the picture?
The Everliving Company, Inc. has come up with a best solution. It is constructing the first modern columbarium and technologically-advanced crematorium in the Philippines - a one-stop shop facility that offers a full range of services for the departed. With covenience and peace of mind as its main objectivers, Everliving Company. Inc. provides a crematorium, columbarium and funeral chapels all under one roof.

Through the Sanctuarium, a 12-storey, flood-free facility on Araneta Avenue in Quezon City, both the dead and the living will find comfort and serenity. It will soothe the grief over the death of a loved one while taking the stressful and tedious details of funeral rites.

What are its other features?
The Sanctuarium will feature state-of-the-art amenities such as fully automated cremators that completes the cremation period in less than an hour compared to the two to three hours required by other facilities. Its columbaria can hold as many as four urns in each vault. It is also possible for the pictures of loved ones to be engraved there.

It shall have 29 chapels that are open to different religious denominations. It will be equipped with a centralized air-condition system, a computerized security and fire protection system and a 24-hour standby power generators.
Not only that, the ground lobby will be serviced by two scenic elevators and modern escalators. There will be two service elevators for the use of the staff who will manage the behind-the-scenes work of cremation. The lobby will also have a flower shop and convenience store for memorializers.

In addition, you can request for a coverage of the funeral rites and have it recorded and played on CD tapes right in the viewing room of the Sanctuarium.

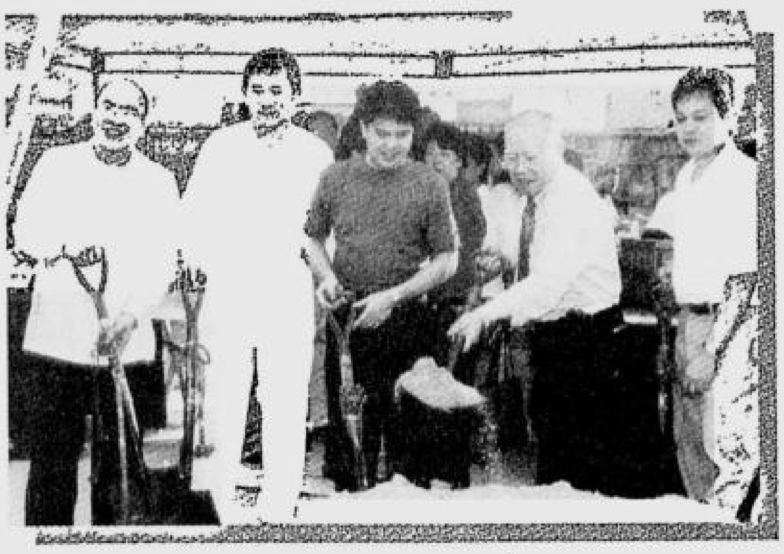
Are there enough parking spaces?
There will be two basement parking areas that are well-lit, fully secured and can accommodate 350 vehicles.

Finally, what is the guiding principle behind the concept of Everliving?
Convenience and peace of mind, both for the dead and the bereaved, those are the main objectives.

SANCTUARIUM GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONIES

Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte was the special guest of honor during the ground-breaking ceremonies of The Sanctuarium, the biggest columbarium in the world to be built along Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Assisting the Mayor during the lowering of the time capsule were (left to right) Cora Bautista, Treasurer and Vice Chairperson, The Everliving Company, Inc., co-Vice Chairperson, Eduardo Que, Asst. CEO Melchor Say, Atty. Mat Defensor, the Hon. Jovencito Zuno, Everliving Board Chairman George Triviño, Rufino Lim and Gen. Lucas Managuelod.



Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Mike Defensor was the special guest of honor during the ground-breaking ceremonies of The Sanctuarium, which will be built along Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Assisting the Secretary during the ceremonies were (left to right) Vice Chairman Eduardo Que, Assistant CEO Melchor Say, Everliving Company Board Chairman George Triviño and Mr. John Defensor.

Provider of Life Insurance for this project
AYALA LIFE
ASSURANCE, INCORPORATED

Provider of Pension Plan for this project
AYALA PLANS*
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THE
EVERLIVING
COMPANY, INC.

739 G. Araneta Ave. corner Agno St., Quezon City
Tel. No.: (632) 781-6040 Connecting All Departments

LIAISON OFFICE: 2601 & 2610 Prestige Tower, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No.: (632) 636-0720 Connecting All Departments Fax: (632) 638-7608

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

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OgilvyOne Worldwide dominates Direct Marketing Asia 2002 Awards

OGILVYONE Worldwide clearly dominated this year's staging of the Direct Marketing Asia 2002 Awards by winning 14 of the 19 awards up for grabs. OgilvyOne Manila contributed to the medal haul by winning bronze in the recruitment category for its campaign dubbed "Pfizer Men's Health Check" for Viagra.

"The judging process was stringent, with all entries scrutinized by both international and local experts. Gold was scarcer than hens' teeth, so we're delighted to have monopolized the most precious metal count, especially in such exalted company," beamed Shane Weaver, creative director for OgilvyOne Singapore, and one of the 19 judges.

OgilvyOne Singapore capped the awards, winning Best of Show with its ground-breaking Gorrilaz campaign, which offered an innovative and creative way for fans to communicate via text messages with the four members of the virtual pop band Gorrilaz, on top of the seven other medals. Other OgilvyOne offices in Tokyo, Taiwan, Malaysia and Manila had their time in the spotlight with armfuls of silver and bronze.

The bronze-winning campaign by OgilvyOne Manila for Viagra was implemented through a series of events in 30 companies, corporations, and social organizations in Cebu City, where the top management officers were invited to participate in an actual check-up. During the event, they were also asked to complete a diagnostic survey form. Respondents were mailed a Results Pack, which indicated whether they were at risk of having Erectile Dysfunction and encourages them to see a doctor.

"In addition to driving up sales, the campaign also successfully overcame the cultural and psychological barriers which previously prevented Filipino males from discussing Erectile Dysfunction with their doctors. These patients were successfully treated, thereby allowing them to enjoy what is undoubtedly a better quality of life for them and their partners, through the use of Viagra," Dickie Soriano, OgilvyOne managing director, said.

OgilvyOne's bronze made it only one of two agencies from the Philippines that grabbed a medal at the prestigious direct marketing tourney. The OgilvyOne team that made the win possible include Peachy Todino-Pacquing, creative director and copywriter, Dorky Mallare, art director, Angie Tijam, copywriter, Jun Jamalongue, print production, Leah Besa, group account director, Armi Consunji, CRM planner, and Don Yap, account manager.

The DM Asia 2002 awards is Asia's prime event honoring direct marketing. The competition attracted a high standard of entries across online, offline and wireless media, and an international panel judged more than 150 entries from 10 countries. Some 300 people attended the gala awards luncheon at Suntec City.

UNIONBANK WINS SSS HOUSING LOANS AWARDS

UnionBank was recently honored by the Social Security System (SSS) in the 2002 Balikat ng Bayan Awards as the Best Participating Financial Institution in Housing Loans. The award is in recognition of the bank's valuable support to SSS in its mandate to provide better services to its members. UnionBank posted the highest releases of various SSS loan programs and exhibited exemplary performance in terms of services to a significant number of SSS members. The awarding ceremony was held during SSS' 45th anniversary celebration. Proudly showing the award is Justo A. Ortiz (2nd from right), chair and CEO, UnionBank, with (from left) Corazon de la Paz, president and CEO, SSS, Jose Isidro Camacho, Secretary, Department of Finance, Bernardino Abes, chair, Social Security Commission, and Victor B. Valdepenas, president and COO, UnionBank.

Acupressure therapy at TLRC

PROMOTING general wellness through scientific body massage will be tackled in a hands-on seminar titled Acupressure Therapy slated Oct. 17 and 18, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center. Topics include an overview on acupressure, diagnosing a person's health through acupressure, understanding the Yin and Yang theory, an overview of the 14 meridians, physical and emotional symptoms of imbalance, location of the Shu and alarm points of the different meridians, and familiarization of the acupoints on the 14 meridians of the human body. Enrollees should bring short pants for the workshop. For inquiries, call TLRC at direct lines 633-5709 and 633-6728 or at 637-4108 to 12, loc. 605.

Shell wins two ad awards

THE SHELL "Zoom, Zoom" ad, created by J. Walter Thompson (JWT) in 1969, won a Pilipino Advertising Klasik Award from the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies of the Philippines (4As) to honor timeless commercials produced and aired over the last 25 years.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. was also named by the 4As--in a one-of-a-kind celebration of its 25th anniversary—as one of the top 25 advertisers of the Philippines, besting hundreds of advertisers in the country.

The top advertiser award was received by Cesar Romero, Shell general manager for retail, and Arlene Manalo, Shell brand and communications manager during the opening ceremonies of the 4As Advertising Summit Aug. 29 at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel, CCP Complex, Manila.

The Shell "Zoom, Zoom" TV ad is best remembered for its quick-paced refrain of the ad jingle "Zoom, Zoom, SuperShell" showing newly discovered Carmilla Onrubia with then-popular go-kart racing champion Joey Bundalian. Print and radio versions likewise supported the TV placements.

The ad also carries the distinction of winning Asia's first Clio Award. The Clio is the Oscar of the advertising industry.

The "Zoom, Zoom" ad was adjudged for its contribution to changing the advertising landscape of the era. It effectively utilized the proposition of using emotion for a gasoline advertising campaign: "Your car will feel like an F1 if you load up on Shell."

On the other hand, Shell's selection as one of the best 25 advertisers during the past 25 years gives recognition to the company's consistency in upholding the principles of creativity and the adherence to the Code of Ethics of the Advertising Board of the Philippines in all its brand and corporate advertisements.

Shell was the only petroleum company named to the list of 4As' 25 best advertisers and Pilak honor roll.

A DREAM VACATION COMES TRUE

Three lucky pizza lovers will soon be off to relax and enjoy free vacation trips as Domino's West Avenue gave away exciting travel sprees for its recently concluded 3-month promo Dream Destinations. First prize winners were grand draw winners Claro Lunod earning a trip for two to Hong Kong, 2nd draw winner Lia Angela Africa going off to Boracay, and 1st draw winner Diane Lizarondo staying overnight at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Hearty pizza gift certificates were drawn as consolation prizes. The fun continues at Domino's West Avenue. For orders, call 372-5555. Shown is 2nd draw winner Africa.

ISUZU CAVITE AT 3

Celebrating Isuzu Cavite's 3rd anniversary Sept. 20 were, from left, top row, Jojo Katigbak, service manager, Isuzu Alabang, Philip Delfin, sales manager, Isuzu Cavite, Jhun Zaguirre, service and parts manager, Isuzu Cavite, Alex Paguio, branch manager, Isuzu Cavite, Carlos Reyes, general manager, Isuzu Automotive Dealership Inc. (IADI), Art Balmadrid, VP, IPC, Leo Dolendo, branch manager, Isuzu Pasig, Erlo Tenedero, operations manager, Isuzu Alabang, and Valance Mauricio, sales manager, Isuzu Alabang. Seated, from left, are Audine Pena, HR officer, Isuzu Cavite, Carla Lagumbay, finance manager, IADI, Thess Dalisay, finance manager, Isuzu Cavite, Timmy Naval PR manager, IPC, Mhel Perez, HR assistant manager, Isuzu Alabang, and Monina Macavinta, HR group head, IADI.

Clips

Meditation fights the blues

WHILE meditation has become a popular anti-stress tool, a new project to use it against depression is being introduced. In small group sessions, the visualization exercises by Amy P. Cavosora are preceded by brief lectures on "A Course in Miracles". Participants in the "Orange Program for 'Blue' People" have the option to undergo one-on-one meetings for personal sharing. Named after the color of the second chakra that rules the emotions, the program will also tap into the principles of color therapy and the Enneagram. Exclusively held at Ink & Stone bookshop in The Podium, Ortigas, the sessions will be held every 2nd and 4th Wednesdays starting Oct. 16 at 6:30 p.m. To register, call Queenie or Edward at Ink & Stone at 637-8221, or Amy Cavosora at 925-2795 or 0917-608-9625.

THE WORK OF CJ DE SILVA

After the success of her recent painting exhibit 'A Gift for the Gifted', 16-year-old gifted child CJ de Silva will open another one-child show this Oct. 18 to 31 at the main lobby of the PhilamLife Building along United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila. The coming event titled 'A Gift for the Gifted II' will display 31 of CJ's most recent works which are up for sale. In support of the programs aimed at helping develop and maximize the full potential of gifted children like CJ, part of the proceeds will go to the Philippine Association for the Gifted. This marks CJ's 4th solo exhibit, the first of which was held when she was only 11 years old.

UNILEVER CONCLUDES CBA WITH BISIG UNION

Unilever Philippines, one of the largest, fast-moving consumer goods companies in the country, has signed a memorandum of agreement concluding another successful collective bargaining agreement with its labor union, Bisig ng Manggagawa. The formal signing ceremony took place Sep. 5 with Department of Labor and Employment Sec. Patricia Sto. Tomas present to witness the event. The agreement reflects a breakthrough in remuneration structure with the introduction of a performance-based reward scheme for union members based on the achievement of company business growth and profit targets. On its 75 year of continuous operations in the Philippines, Unilever Philippines has been a recipient of numerous employment-related awards. Shown is Sto. Tomas in a three-way congratulatory handshake with Gibbs Guevarra (Unilever Union president) and Howard Belton (Unilever chair and CEO) together with the union and management panel members.

MSSC's new accounting software

MUSTARD Seed Systems Corp.(MSSC) launched the new versions of its acclaimed user-friendly products MYOB Accounting Version 12 and MYOB Premier Version 6 on Oct. 16 at the Roof Deck Function Hall 3 of Prestige Tower along Emerald Avenue in Ortigas Center, Pasig City. The new versions would introduce new and improved product features designed to ease the work of the accounting departments of its client companies, and allow the products to be understood and used even by non-accounting personnel. The products have also been designed to be compatible to Philippine business models and accounting practices, making them highly effective accounting platforms for local SMEs. For more information, call Judith Mansay at 687-0307, 687-0308, e-mail info@mseedsystems.com, or visit www.mseedsystems.com.

Risk management seminar

THE INTERNATIONAL Risk Management (IRM) and Consultancy Services Inc., in cooperation with the Tower Club, the country's premier by-invitation-only business and social club, will teach corporations how to anticipate and meet risk exposures head on through a seminar "An International Perspective of Security in the Philippines." To be held at The Taipan of the Tower Club today, Oct. 17, the forum will be led by speakers Laurence Canavan and Peter McDevitt, president and sales and marketing director, respectively, of IRM Consultancy. Highlights of the program include executive protection, competitor intelligence, due diligence, corporate investigations, and corporate security programs. The seminar is open to Tower Club members and their guests. For inquiries, call 811-8132.

Art of candle making

ARE YOU creative? Then learn another medium where you cam put those creative juices to use. Come to the Julius Maggi Kitchen (JMK) and discover the art of candle making. JMK's October presentation will also feature delightful Meatloaf and Caramel Bar recipes that can be used for gift giving or earning added income this Christmas. Catch this month's demonstrations on Oct. 17 and 19. Sessions start at 2 p.m. For reservations call 726-9232 or 726-1016. Also catch baking guru Heny Sison at the Kitchen as he conducts classes on Christmas Bars and Cookies (Oct. 18), Breads and Rolls (Oct. 21, 22) and the Native Kakanin Workshop (Oct. 23) For inquiries, call 726-5316. All sessions will be conducted at the Julius Maggi Kitchen, ground floor, Nestle Center, 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City

MFI scholars graduate

THE 17th batch of scholars of Meralco Foundation Institute composed of 150 students who successfully completed the 3-year requirements for technical courses and the 2-year requirements for information technology will take center stage during the 17th Commencement Exercises today, Oct. 17, 1:30 p.m. at the Teatro Aguinaldo in Quezon City. The graduation exercises will have for guest of honor and keynote speaker Rep. Henry Lanot of the lone district of Pasig. This year's graduation theme revolves around "Going Beyond the Boundaries of Technical Competencies Toward the Challenges of Global Competitiveness." Welcoming the guests are MFI officials Col. Alex T. Escano, president, and members of the board of trustees and department heads of the school. Statistics show 90 percent of MFI graduates are employed even before they graduate.

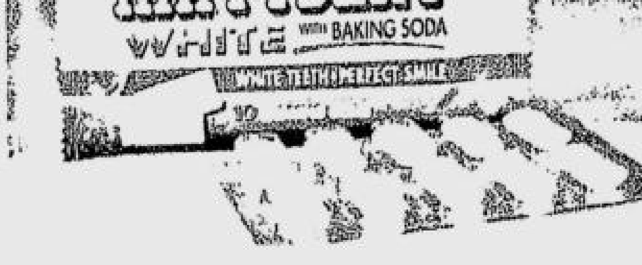
Product FILES

Affordable teeth-whitening formula

Teeth discoloration is usually caused by the buildup of plaque on surfaces of teeth. Smoking and drinking of coffee or tea contribute to plaque buildup.

Baking soda prevents the formation of plaque because of its gentle abrasive effect on the surfaces of teeth. Today, leading toothpaste brands have added baking soda to their products. Baking soda is also contained in Happydent White Chewing Gum – a mint-flavored gum in a convenient blister pack that can be enjoyed anytime, anywhere. Plus, Happydent costs only P12, making it affordable to everyone.

Distributed in the Philippines by Perfetti Van Melle. Happydent White Chewing Gum keeps teeth pearly-white and breath super-fresh or for that perfect smile.



Fed says US economy still in good shape

NEW YORK—Policymakers at the Federal Reserve said on Tuesday that the low level of interest rates is supporting US economic growth, and the risk of falling back into recession is slim.

In comments that suggested little urgency to cut interest rates further from current four-decade lows, Fed Governor Ben Bernanke said the economy was in good shape and unlikely to succumb to deflation, when prices decline across the economy.

His remarks were echoed by Minneapolis Fed President Gary Stern, who said the risk of the world's largest economy dipping back into recession was "relatively low," and economic growth would pick up from its current 3-percent pace by the second half of next year.

Both Stern and Bernanke are voting members of the Fed's policy-setting committee, which decided last month to keep the federal funds rate steady at 1.75 percent, where it has been for nearly a year.

"I think the risks of deflation in the US economy are extremely remote. The economy is in very good shape," Bernanke said in New York after giving his first major speech since being sworn in as a Fed governor in August.

Reuters

AUSTRALIA'S WARNING

EU, Japan could delay WTO talks

CANBERRA—Australia warned on Wednesday that the European Union and Japan were threatening to delay the progress of world trade talks by not putting forward their proposals for agriculture.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) has set a deadline of March next year for countries to agree on a basic framework for future farm trade negotiations, with agriculture a major stumbling block in moves to liberalize trade.

But senior Australian trade officials said this deadline was in danger of being pushed back due to the EU and Japan, which could also derail plans to complete the WTO talks by December 2004.

"If the EU and Japan don't bring forward proposals that runs a lot of risks that we won't meet the deadline," a senior official from Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade told a media briefing, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

He said it appeared the EU and Japan had done a deal over the agricultural components of the Doha trade round in a bid to slow down the pace of the agricultural negotiations and retain protection for their own farmers.

The EU, under pressure in the talks to eliminate its agricultural export subsidies and scale back its farm programs, still has not presented its position, nor has Japan.

"The two key participants that have to be involved in negotiations haven't put anything specific forward," he said.

The official said Australia and the other 16 members of the Cairns Group of agriculture exporting nations would stress the need for urgency from the EU and Japan at their 24th ministerial meeting in Santa Cruz in Bolivia from Oct. 18-21.

Trade Minister Mark Vaile said the Cairns Group meeting and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) meeting in Mexico later in the month were good opportunities to ramp up the campaign to liberalize trade.

The Cairns Group and Apec, with 21 member nations, are influential groups within the WTO.

The meetings come just three months before the WTO's agricultural committee is due to release its guidelines for agricultural liberalization in the Doha trade round.

"The guidelines will be crucial in determining the outcomes for the Doha Round and will shape the direction of reform of world agricultural protection and support over the next decade," Vaile said in a statement.

The Cairns Group last month unveiled an ambitious new plan to open up global markets for their products which included cutting tariffs in developed countries to 25 percent or less and raising tariff quota access to 20 percent of domestic consumption.

Reuters

Asia stocks up on Wall St. gain

SINGAPORE—Asian shares advanced for a fourth day yesterday following a 5-percent surge on Wall Street, but disappointing results from Intel Corp. crimped the rally and pulled US stock index futures lower.

Shares rose more than one percent in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea only to hit a barrier as top chipmaker Intel tumbled 13 percent in after-hours trade, helping to wipe 2.31 percent off Nasdaq 100 index futures.

The stunning rise in US stocks, the fourth day of gains, lifted the dollar briefly above 125 yen, its highest since June 14.

US investors fled the safe haven of government bonds as Treasuries posted their biggest one-day rise in yields in four years, and gold futures fell to six-week lows.

Japanese stocks were stronger by midmorning, with top exporters including Honda Motor Co. snapped up because of the softer yen and Wall Street's rally. The benchmark Nikkei average was up 1.46 percent at 8,965.98 at 0200 GMT.

"I think we'll make a serious try at 9,000 again some time today, but Intel's steep slide after the bell has made it somewhat difficult to buy with confidence," said Koji Morooka, senior manager of equities at Mitsubishi Securities.

Intel tumbled 12.8 percent to $14.40 on Instinet from its Nasdaq close after forecasting fourth-quarter revenue growth of zero to 6 percent versus the third quarter, far less than the 10-15 percent typical for the industry.

Shares of Novellus Systems Inc. also slumped in extended trading after the maker of semiconductor production equipment said "anemic demand" pushed revenue lower in the third quarter.

The reports were in contrast to surprisingly strong profits announced on Tuesday from bellwether US companies Citigroup Inc. and General Motors Corp.

Reuters

Inflation target an option—BOJ

TOKYO— Bank of Japan Governor Masaru Hayami said on Wednesday that the central bank may consider adopting an inflation target if economic conditions changed, but it was not a policy option at this stage.

Hayami noted that inflation-targeting— whereby a central bank sets a level for price rises and sets monetary policy to achieve it—was usually used to bring down inflation rather than battle deflation, which is Japan's problem.

But he added: "There is a possibility that the central bank may need to adopt inflation-targeting."

Hayami has previously rejected the idea of inflation-targeting as a way of solving Japan's problem of falling prices.

He also said the central bank had no plans for an imminent easing of monetary policy.

"The Bank of Japan is already supplying enough funds," Hayami told a news conference.

There is growing pressure on the BOJ to ease policy further to cushion the impact of a tough new government approach to banks' bad loan problems.

Hayami said that while the bad-loan problem was more severe than ever, the financial system was not in crisis.

Hayami also said that he did not think the yen, which has been falling against the US dollar, would continue to weaken.

"It seems foreigners had bought dollars and repatriated them to the United States after US stocks rose following a temporary fall," he said.

"I don't think (the yen) will keep weakening. Recent moves are natural given the free-market economy. Excessive moves will be corrected and we should not worry or fiddle."

The dollar hit a four-month high against the yen on Wednesday but then slipped back.

Reuters

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35th Shell
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Winners

Oil / Acrylic Category

1st Place Mary Grace Tenorio, UP Diliman; **2nd Place** Eufemio Rasco IV, PWU; **3rd Place** Renato Habulan, UP Diliman; **Honorable** Percival Magpale, PWU; **Honorable** Frolian Calayag, TUP; **Honorable** Janren Omanio, FEATI

Finalist

Rafael P. Aliscad, III FEU; Jeffrey S. Almario, UST; John Paul Antido, UP-Diliman; Tomas E. Arao, Jr., UE; Mark Dawn S.J. Arcamo, FEU; Antonio C. Areola, RTU; Leida C. Austria, UST; Katie Aytona, FEU; Junel T. Balani, UE; Janet P. Balbarona, FEU; Allan Jay R. Balisi, FEU; De Hann Rey F. Ballesteros, UP - Baguio; Gesril A. Baloyo, PWU; Mary Grace V. Barazon, UE; Lyle Baxinela, University of San Agustin; Nhorleen M. Bitco, TUP; Alfie B. Bocabel, UE; Larry M. Calubay, TUP; Raymond F. Cariaso, FEU; Patricia Castillo CHS, Ria Marie F. Clemente, CHS; Joey V. Cobcobo, TUP; Christian V. Cruz, UE;Nonie G. Cruzado, UST; Don Djerassi L. Dalmacio, FEU; Raymond O. Damian, UE; Ednell S. Esber, TUP; Michael J. Espinosa, EARIST; Brian B. Fajardo, FEU; Jesu G. Gernale, Bulacan State University; Raphael D.L. Gregorio, UP-Diliman; Alden Guevarra, PWU; Rolando S. Gumban FEU, Jonathan F. Leyba, PWU; Joven R. Mansit, UP-Diliman; Jonizar Paul G. Mejia, UP - Baguio; Lawrence R. Memije, UST; Cristy G. Mongaya, TUP; Demetrio S. Padua, Jr., FEU; Franklin T. Pahignalo, TUP; Marc Bryan Palacios, St. Scholastica's College; Mira Michaela A. Pelegrin, UST; Winchell D. Saludares, UP-Diliman; Janzen Peter N. Salvatus, UST; Rogelio B. Santos, Jr. UP-Diliman; Cris John C. Sy, TUP; Stephen L. Taneo, FEU; Liv R. Timan, FEU; Roldan C. Ventura, UE; Michelle Villa-Real, CHS; James Zabala, UST; Christopher H. Zamora, PWU.

Watercolor Category

1st Place Ferdinand Basa, UP Diliman; **2nd Place** Samuel Bulaga, TUP; **3rd Place** Joel Quiñones, FEU; **Honorable** Jaime Gubaton, UE; **Honorable** Nile Garreth Pobadora, FEU; **Honorable** Victoria Rosete, St. Scholastica

Finalist

Ma. Katherine Alice V. Ballesil, FEU; Yveese J. Belen, UST; Rosauro A. Cabacungan, EARIST; Joey V. Cobcobo, TUP; Raymond G. Demdam, AMA CLC of Sorsogon; Kenny Carl A. Garcia, FEATI; Riyah Gina N. Gravador, MIT; Vinzon Darwin F. Jumalon, UP-Diliman; Brenda Praico, UST; Ma Theresa A. Reyes, UE-Caloocan, Mark Ramsel N. Salvatus, III, UST; Erwin Lloyd P. Sumang, PWU; Cris John C. Sy, TUP; Antonio M. Totto, Jr., PUP; Rodolfo M. Vera Cruz, Jr., TUP; Francis C. Yaip, TUP.

Sculpture Category

1st Place Edgar Allan Nepomuceno, PATTS; **2nd Place** Erly Lim, FEU; **3rd Place** Harry Mark Gonzales, AMA CLC; **Honorable** Alexis V. Sevilla, UE; **Honorable** Rachid Ivan M. Sadiwa, UE; **Honorable** Catherine S. Lasam, UP Diliman.

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EPSON Digital Fine Arts Category

1st Place Ryan Raymundo, PWU; **2nd Place** Ray Christian Ticsay, UST; **3rd Place** Omar Joseph Turla, UE; **Honorable** Serafin Tomas, UST; **Honorable** Ronald Samson, FEU; **Honorable** Leobensant Marquez, UST.

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Lei Angelic Abinan, AUP; Sherwin S. Heraña, UE-Caloocan; Rey Dan S. Ormita, FEU; Byron P. Salarza, AUP; Winchell D. Saludares, UP-Diliman.

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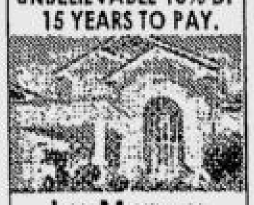

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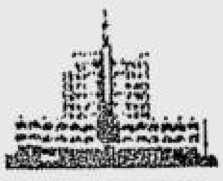

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is given that estate of the late spouses VALENTE M. VILLANUEVA, SR. & LUCILA M. VILLANUEVA, has been extra-judicially settled w/ absolute sale, as per Doc.#110, Page 23, Book No. XI, Series of 2002 of Notary Public - for Paranaque City Atty. Jose E. Marigundon, CPA.
(PDI-Oct. 17, 24 & 31, 2002)

PERSONAL

Thank You St. Jude
Thank You St. Peregrine
Thank You St Gerard-VGM

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

POSTPONEMENT OF BIDDING FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF POLYPROPYLENE EMPTY SACKS (MTS)

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) announces the postponement of the bidding for the supply and delivery of polypropylene empty sacks (MTS) from **October 23, 2002** to **October 25, 2002** at the following time and place:

Place - 10th Floor, NFA Boardroom NFA, Quezon City
Time - 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. (Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals)
10:45 a.m. (Opening of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals)

(Sgd.) Conrado DL. Ibañez
Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI-Oct. 17, 2002)

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ANTONIO MORALES UYJIOCO

(July 11, 1942 – October 16, 2002)

Has joined his wife "Ludy" and rests in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord at the age of 60.

His loving daughters Tere, Tina and Cel, and relatives request for prayers for his eternal happiness.

His remains lie in state at the Ipil Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, inside Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 20, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

AMDG

OSCAR "Títus" J. V. TAJONERA

July 25, 1944 – October 16, 2002

His beloved wife **Star**; children **Eins** & **Chris**, **Zwei (TJ)** & **Tintin**, **Drei** & **Yeng**, **Vier**, and **Funf**; grandchildren **Pia**, **Sam**, **Bruce**, **Bri**, **Jeannie**, **Jacq**, **Jessie**, **Justine**, **Thea**, **Miguel**, and **Oliver**; brothers **Chuchi** & **Peewee**, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 20, 2002, at the Himlayang Pilipino after the 7:00 a.m. Mass.

"My soul, be at rest in God alone from whom comes my hope."
Psalm 62:6

GLORIA "Oyi" REYES VILLAFLOR

Of Tuguegarao City and Quezon City
Peacefully joined her Creator at 11:20 p.m.
October 15, 2002.

She is survived by her husband **Ramon**; children **Rosemarie & Francis "Tondra" Melegrito**, **Gigi**, **Stephen "Tibo" & Marilyn**, **Gilbert & Pawnee**, **Teddy & Marett**; grandchildren **AJ**, **Bianca**, **John**, **Nicolai**, **Kaloi**, **Kani**, **Ian & Mark**; sister **Remedios "Reme" Amistad** & family; other relatives and friends. Pious readers are requested to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish Church, Bulletin St., Brgy. West Triangle, Quezon City.

Cremation of her remains will follow after the 9:00 a.m. Mass on October 22, 2002 (Tuesday)..

Leonor Datoc Ramos

Widow of the late **Gen. Pedro B. Ramos**
Passed away in the peace of the Lord
on October 15, 2002.

Her children **Manuelita**, **Victor Phil Amer**, **Victor Pedro**, **Stella Reiss**, **Alberto**, **Joseph** and **Antonio**; grandchildren, sisters **Teodora**, **Fernanda**, **Salud** and **Josephine Santos** and family request the pious readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapel, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 19, 2002 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

(Ret) P/Col Mateo "Tayong" B Nadonga

Joined his Maker on October 15, 2002.

He is survived by his loving wife **Dolores "Mama-Lits" O. Nadonga**; and his children **Nina San Diego**, **Baby Millan**, **Mariz Fulgencio**, **Joie Nadonga**, **Jojo Lanuza** and **Louie Nadonga**.

His remains lie in state at the funeral chapel of the Ascension of our Lord Parish, Lagro, Novaliches, Quezon City.

The Funeral Mass will be celebrated on October 19, 2002 at 8:00 a.m., after which the body will be cremated.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you

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1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila; Tels. 522-8846; 522-9438; 400-5394

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
Matthew 10:39

Bienvenido O. Rendon

Died peacefully on October 13, 2002 at the age of 58.

His remains lie in state at the family residence, 894 Kasipagan St., Barrangka Drive, Mandaluyong City.

Cremation will be on Friday, October 18, 2002 at 10:00 AM at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

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Trans Co
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South Luzon Regional Operation & Maintenance

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. TRANSCO 2002-11B

The Southern Luzon Transco (SLT), Transco wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 19, 2002; 2:00 PM	
A1	5 UNITS	FULLY AUTOMATIC DIELECTRIC STRENGTH OIL TESTER	3 PTG-02-066
A2	3 UNITS	TRANSFORMER DISSOLVED GAS ANALYZER	3 PTG-02-069
A3	10 PCS	VOLTAGE TRANSFORMER	3 PSMD-N-02-197

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules on:

1) A1 - November 05, 2002; 10:00 AM - at SLT Bidding Room
2) A2 - November 05, 2002; 11:00 AM - at SLT Bidding Room
3) A3 - November 05, 2002; 2:00 PM - at SLT Bidding Room

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLT, San Vicente Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per schedule starting October 11, 2002. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the SLT Bidding Room, Transco-SL, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock P.M. on the date specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Initial Technical Proposals of eligible bidders will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "Executive Order 40."

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) R.D. RAMAS
Ch man-BAC
sco South

(PDI - Oct. 17, 2002)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
GENCO 6

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
G6-2002-011

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-GENCO 6 invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

SCHEDULE		ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING : NOVEMBER 5, 2002; 10:00 AM	
A1	2 PCS.	SPECTROPHOTOMER, UV-VIS, UVMINI-1240	3MAK-02-0528
A2	1 LOT	ALUMINUM ALLOY TOWER	3MAK-02-0421
		DATE OF BIDDING : NOVEMBER 5, 2002; 2:00 PM	
B1	70 PCS	JO' RECONDITIONING OF PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD OF GENERATOR EXCITATION AND FIELD CONTROL SYSTEM	3MAK-02-0327
		DATE OF BIDDING : NOVEMBER 6, 2002; 10:00 AM	
C1	2 SETS	VALVE, BUTTERFLY, STEAM CONTROL 28" DIA. KUBOTA	3TIW-02-0006
C2	1 SET	GENERATOR PURGING GAS, MONITORING SYSTEM, RIKADENKI, KOGYO	3TIW-02-0003
		DATE OF BIDDING : NOVEMBER 6, 2002; 2:00 PM	
D1	2 SETS	BATTERY, LEAD ACID, STATIONARY	3TIW-02-0091

NOTE: A Pre-bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules on:

1) A2 - OCTOBER 22, 2002; 10:00 am at SLRO Bidding Room
2) B1 - OCTOBER 22, 2002; 11:00 am at SLRO Bidding Room
3) C2 - OCTOBER 23, 2002; 10:00 am at SLRO Bidding Room
4) D1 - OCTOBER 23, 2002; 11:00 am at SLRO Bidding Room

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from Procurement, Traffic and Warehousing Services (PTWS) Section, Administration Division, GENCO 6, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 starting October 10, 2002. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals willb e opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with *"Executive Order 40"*.

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit - One percent (1%), Bank Guarantee - One and a half percent (1.5%), Surety Bond - Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC-GENCO 6 reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) R.H. HERRERA
Chairman-BAC

(PDI - Oct. 9 & 17, 2002)

Small business eyes 35% of gov't supply contracts

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE Small and Medium Business Development Foundation (Philsmed) will ask Congress to give the country's small businessmen a 35-percent share of all government supply contracts to boost their operations.

Philsmed president Mina T. Gabor said this affirmative action was one of the reforms that Philsmed wanted to include in the proposed amendments to the Magna Carta for SMEs.

"Our proposal is for the government to give priority to SMEs in the bidding of supplies by allotting at least 35 percent of the contract value to small businessmen. All things being equal, the government should choose an SME over big companies," Gabor said.

She said the fixed allocation for SMEs in government contracts was patterned after a similar policy adopted in the United States through the Small Business Association (SBA). At least 80 percent of all enterprises in the United States are SMEs.

Philsmed is a private sector-led organization composed of 2,000 SMEs formed in 1992 (the same year the Magna Carta was enacted) to promote the interest of small Filipino businessmen. A micro enterprise is defined as having assets of less than P1.5 million; a small enterprise, less than P15 million and a medium-sized enterprise, less than P60 million.

Gabor said this reform would be a big shot in the arm to SMEs that comprised 99.9 percent of the total number of enterprises in the country and employed 60 percent of the total labor force. "It would give small entrepreneurs a market for their products and a firm foundation to become more efficient," Gabor said.

She said that more than the lack of financing, the biggest problem facing SMEs in the country was marketing. "There are plenty of SMEs that produce quality products but the problem is they have very few avenues to sell their wares. The role of the government and Philsmed is to guide the SMEs to the mainstream market," Gabor said.

Gabor said that if SMEs would improve their turnover by finding markets for their products, they would have no problems with financing since most of their transactions were made on cash basis.

MORE FLOUR FROM GMC

Flour supply is more than adequate, General Milling Corp. (GMC) assures President Macapagal-Arroyo during her recent tour of GMC's plant in Ugong, Pasig City, together with Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II (right). GMC executive director Romeo P. Sangalang (left) shows the President the company's flour stocks while GMC corporate affairs director and Philippine Association of Flour Millers (Pafmil) executive director Ric M. Pinca looks on. GMC is the nation's biggest producer of flour.

Farmers seek pullout of agri products from WTO tariff cut plan

CALAMBA CITY—Farmers from Southern Tagalog called for the pullout of Philippine agriculture from the 1994 GATT-WTO during the World Food Day celebration yesterday as prices of major crops in this region continued to plunge.

According to Eduardo Gumanoy, Katipunan ng mga Samahang Magbubukid ng Timog Katagalugan chair, the falling prices of copra, *palay*, sugarcane and coffee—which are Southern Tagalog's major crops—are "pulling down farmers' income to levels way below the poverty line."

"It has been decades now since the UN-FAO-declared World Food Day but we, farmers, and our families, who are the primary producers of food, go hungry every day," Gumanoy said.

More than 200 farmers from the region held a caravan yesterday from Calamba to set up camp at the Department of Agrarian Reform until the morning of Oct. 21, in protest of the continuing problem of landlessness, hunger and impoverishment among the farmers and fisher folk in the region.

Gumanoy said copra prices went down to P6 per kilo this month from a high of P16 per kilo in September.

In 2000, it was P2 per kilo, the lowest since 1986, resulting in widespread hunger and malnourishment among coconut farmers' families in the region.

The government implemented the Coconut Farmers Food Access Program in 2001 to help farmers get by with the crisis in the industry.

Gumanoy, however, said it was a piecemeal effort and did not make a dent in solving the real problems besetting the coconut farmers in the region.

The farmers instead demanded the release of the coco levy fund from the control of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

A considerable portion of the coco levy fund collected from the coconut farmers was allegedly used by Cojuangco to buy shares of certain companies, particularly San Miguel Corp. where he is a major shareholder.

Gumanoy further said the prices of *palay*, coffee and sugarcane were also down to their lowest levels.

"We have nothing left to survive on. Even our farmlands are being converted to other uses. Golf courses are everywhere in places once planted to our food crops. Our plight worsened with the country's accession to the 1994 GATT-WTO. The government promised us better conditions when it agreed to include Philippine agriculture in the 1994 GATT-WTO," he added. *Clarisse Colting, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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BUSINESS

Small business eyes 35% of gov't supply contracts

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE Small and Medium Business Development Foundation (Philsmed) will ask Congress to give the country's small businessmen a 35-percent share of all government supply contracts to boost their operations.

Philsmed president Mina T. Gabor said this affirmative action was one of the reforms that Philsmed wanted to include in the proposed amendments to the Magna Carta for SMEs.

"Our proposal is for the government to give priority to SMEs in the bidding of supplies by allotting at least 35 percent of the contract value to small businessmen. All things being equal, the government should choose an SME over big companies," Gabor said.

She said the fixed allocation for SMEs in government contracts was patterned after a similar policy adopted in the United States through the Small Business Association (SBA). At least 80 percent of all enterprises in the United States are SMEs.

Philsmed is a private sector-led organization composed of 2,000 SMEs formed in 1992 (the same year the Magna Carta was enacted) to promote the interest of small Filipino businessmen. A micro enterprise is defined as having assets of less than P1.5 million; a small enterprise, less than P15 million and a medium-sized enterprise, less than P60 million.

Gabor said this reform would be a big shot in the arm to SMEs that comprised 99.9 percent of the total number of enterprises in the country and employed 60 percent of the total labor force. "It would give small entrepreneurs a market for their products and a firm foundation to become more efficient," Gabor said.

She said that more than the lack of financing, the biggest problem facing SMEs in the country was marketing. "There are plenty of SMEs that produce quality products but the problem is they have very few avenues to sell their wares. The role of the government and Philsmed is to guide the SMEs to the mainstream market," Gabor said.

Gabor said that if SMEs would improve their turnover by finding markets for their products, they would have no problems with financing since most of their transactions were made on cash basis.

MORE FLOUR FROM GMC
Flour supply is more than adequate, General Milling Corp. (GMC) assures President Macapagal-Arroyo during her recent tour of GMC's plant in Ugong, Pasig City, together with Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II (right). GMC executive director Romeo P. Sangalang (left) shows the President the company's flour stocks while GMC corporate affairs director and Philippine Association of Flour Millers (Pafmil) executive director Ric M. Pinca looks on. GMC is the nation's biggest producer of flour.

Farmers seek pullout of agri products from WTO tariff cut plan

CALAMBA CITY—Farmers from Southern Tagalog called for the pullout of Philippine agriculture from the 1994 GATT-WTO during the World Food Day celebration yesterday as prices of major crops in this region continued to plunge.

According to Eduardo Gumanoy, Katipunan ng mga Samahang Magbubukid ng Timog Katagalugan chair, the falling prices of copra, *palay*, sugarcane and coffee—which are Southern Tagalog's major crops—are "pulling down farmers' income to levels way below the poverty line."

"It has been decades now since the UN-FAO-declared World Food Day but we, farmers, and our families, who are the primary producers of food, go hungry every day," Gumanoy said.

More than 200 farmers from the region held a caravan yesterday from Calamba to set up camp at the Department of Agrarian Reform until the morning of Oct. 21, in protest of the continuing problem of landlessness, hunger and impoverishment among the farmers and fisher folk in the region.

Gumanoy said copra prices went down to P6 per kilo this month from a high of P16 per kilo in September.

In 2000, it was P2 per kilo, the lowest since 1986, resulting in widespread hunger and malnourishment among coconut farmers' families in the region.

The government implemented the Coconut Farmers Food Access Program in 2001 to help farmers get by with the crisis in the industry.

Gumanoy, however, said it was a piecemeal effort and did not make a dent in solving the real problems besetting the coconut farmers in the region.

The farmers instead demanded the release of the coco levy fund from the control of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

A considerable portion of the coco levy fund collected from the coconut farmers was allegedly used by Cojuangco to buy shares of certain companies, particularly San Miguel Corp. where he is a major shareholder.

Gumanoy further said the prices of *palay*, coffee and sugarcane were also down to their lowest levels.

"We have nothing left to survive on. Even our farmlands are being converted to other uses. Golf courses are everywhere in places once planted to our food crops. Our plight worsened with the country's accession to the 1994 GATT-WTO. The government promised us better conditions when it agreed to include Philippine agriculture in the 1994 GATT-WTO," he added. *Clarisse Colting, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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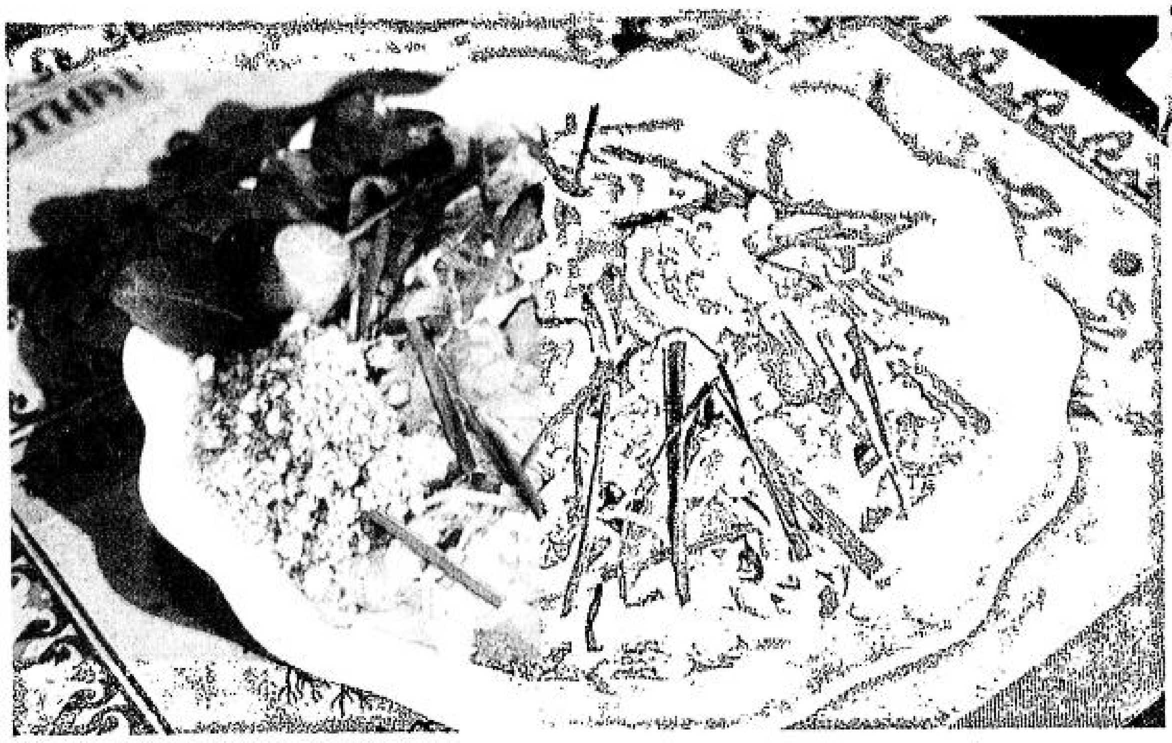
LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso



BEFORE SERVING Phad Thai, sprinkle ground peanuts on top or simply put ground peanuts, *kalamansi* and *kutsay* on one side.

Noodling through, the Thai way

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Roger Carpio

PHAD Thai, the quintessential Thai noodle dish, is not really spicy and fiery compared to other Thai dishes. Phad Thai (sometimes spelled *pad thai*) is subtly sweet, tart and salty all at once. But if the chef carelessly stirs the chili sauce to make it hot and tangy, it's a different version.

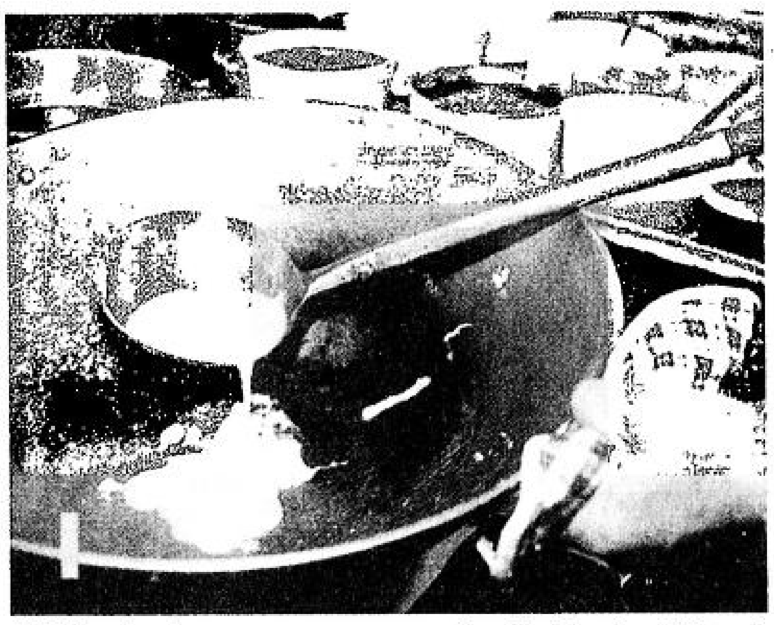
Phad Thai is among the most common Thai dishes, which include *tom yam goong* (spicy sour soup of prawns), *satay* (barbecue), spring rolls and curry. It is popular all over Thailand and the world and is cooked with all sorts of ingredients. Traditional Phad Thai recipes call for cooked chicken or roast pork in place of or along with the shrimp. Stir-fried with the rice stick noodles are eggs, scallions, fish sauce, tofu, vinegar, sugar and chopped roasted peanuts. Garnishings include a heaping portion of bean sprouts on the side as well as a sprig of cilantro on top and a wedge of lime.

Some American Thai restaurants use tomato ketchup, yielding little-pink noodles that create

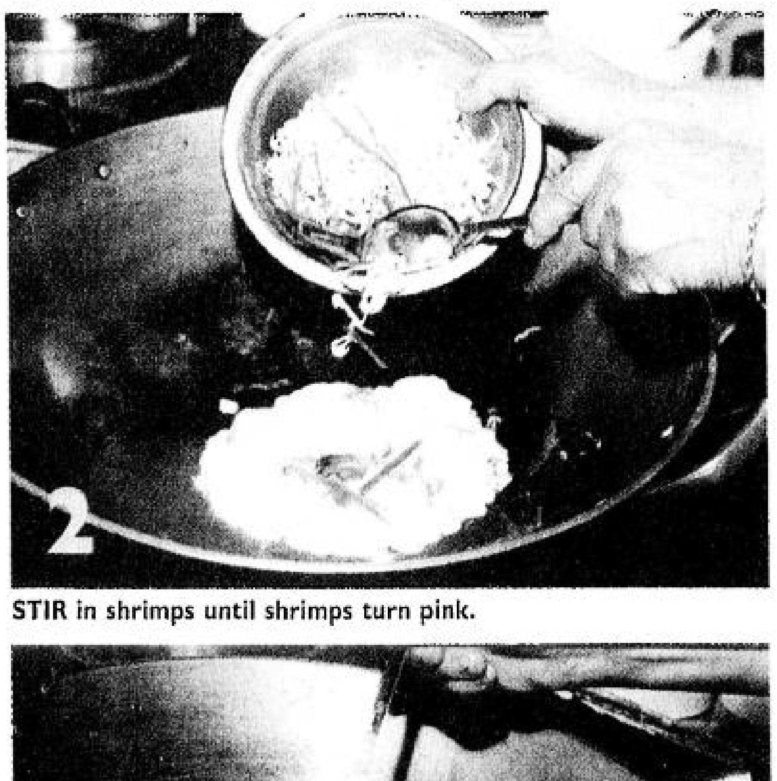
NOODLING/ p.C2

Phad Thai is not your ordinary noodle dish; it's rich with potent ingredients

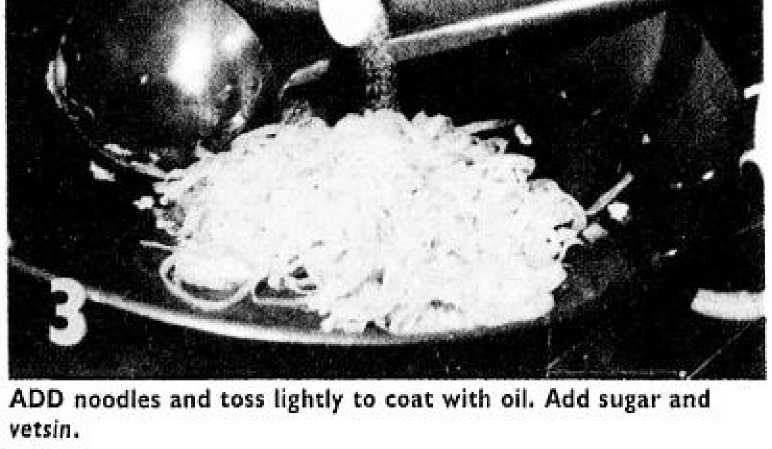
STEP BY STEP



HEAT wok or large saucepan over medium-high heat, add the oil and swirl over the surface. Add the eggs until set.



STIR in shrimps until shrimps turn pink.



ADD noodles and toss lightly to coat with oil. Add sugar and *vetsin*.

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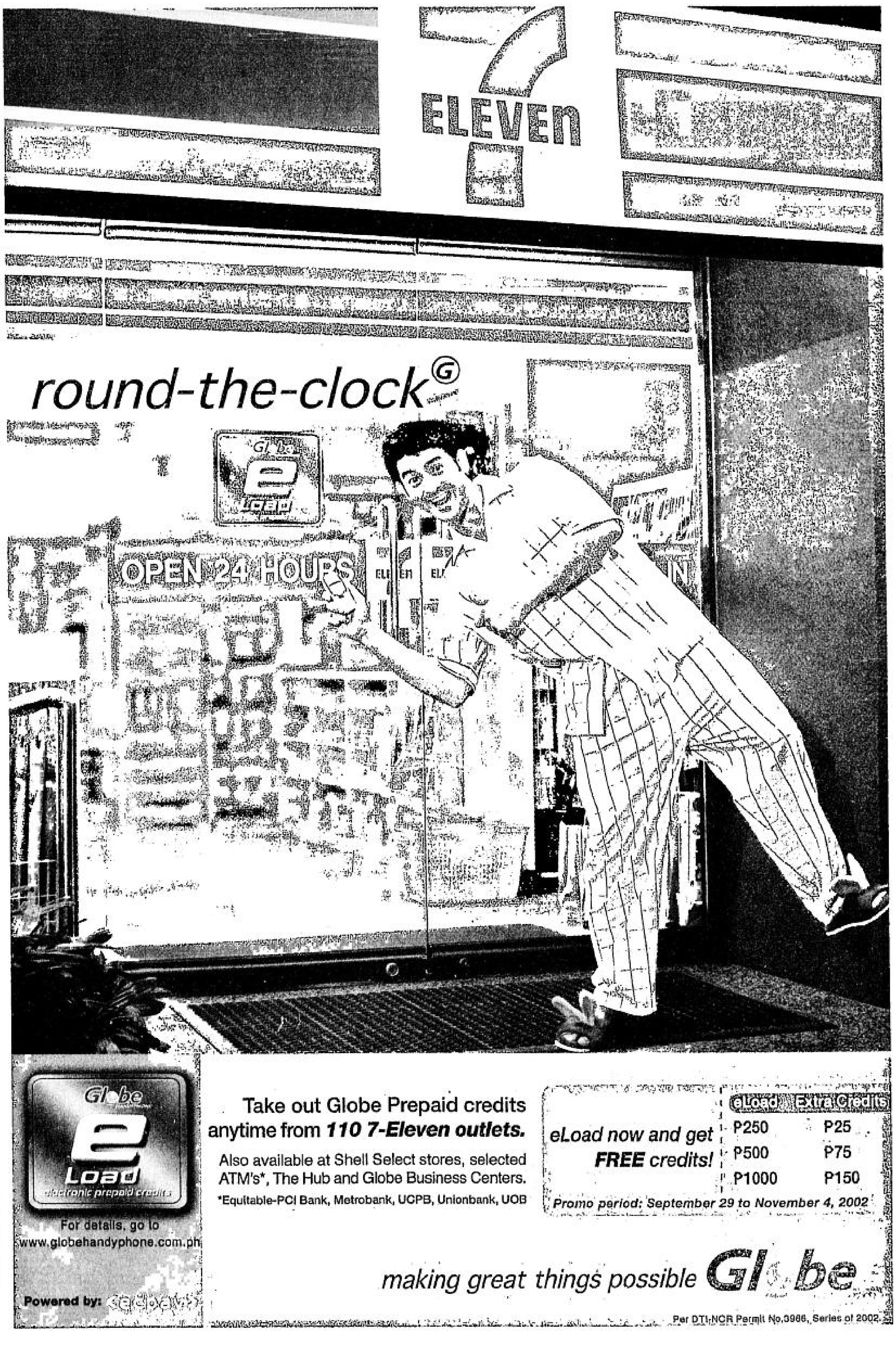

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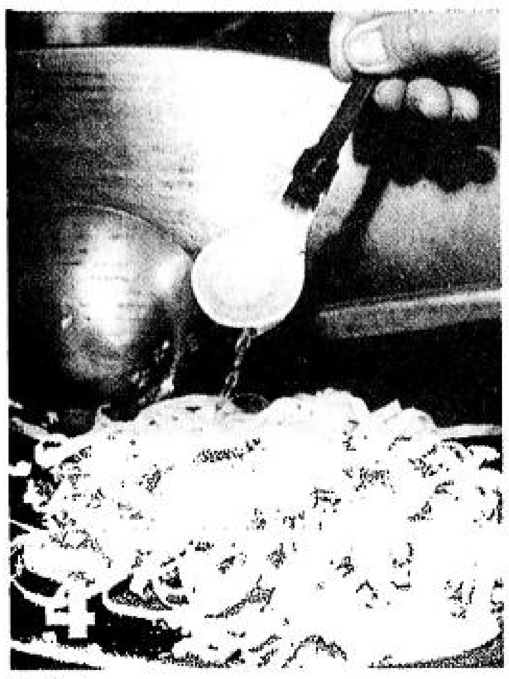
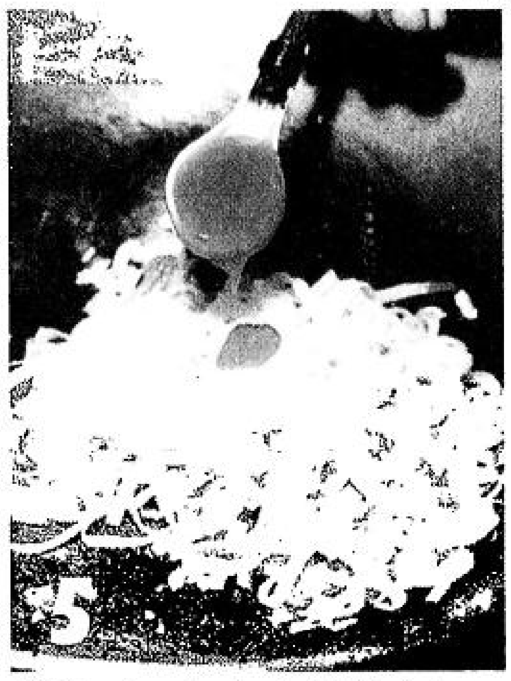


ADD vinegar.



ADD tomato catsup to give it a bit of color. Stir well.

MIX the bean sprout and *kutsay*, stirring constantly until cooked.

TRANSFER to a serving platter.

Noodling through, the Thai way

From page C1

both flavor and color that are appealing to the American palate. Other restaurants use bottled chili sauce, chili powder or flakes, resulting in reddish noodles.

But, whatever the color, the important ingredient in this one-dish meal is the noodle. According to Ernie J. Garcia, owner of Sukhothai (tel. 892-6855/67 and 634-1280/1738, with branches at Glorietta 3 in Ayala Center and SM Megamall), the noodles should be firm and chewy, with the strands dry and separate. But if you prefer the soft and mushy texture of some restaurant noodles, precook the noodles in boiling water before stir-frying.

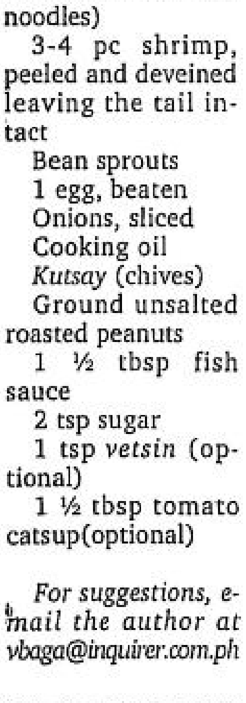
"Simply put the noodles in a large pot half-filled with water and let it boil for five minutes. Remove from pan, drain and rinse with cold water. They should be flexible and soft, but not so soft that they can be mashed easily with the fingers. Traditionally, they are left in full-length strands, but you may cut them into 8-inch lengths if you find it easier to stir-fry them that way," instructs Garcia, who, with other partner-friends, started Sukhothai 14 years ago.

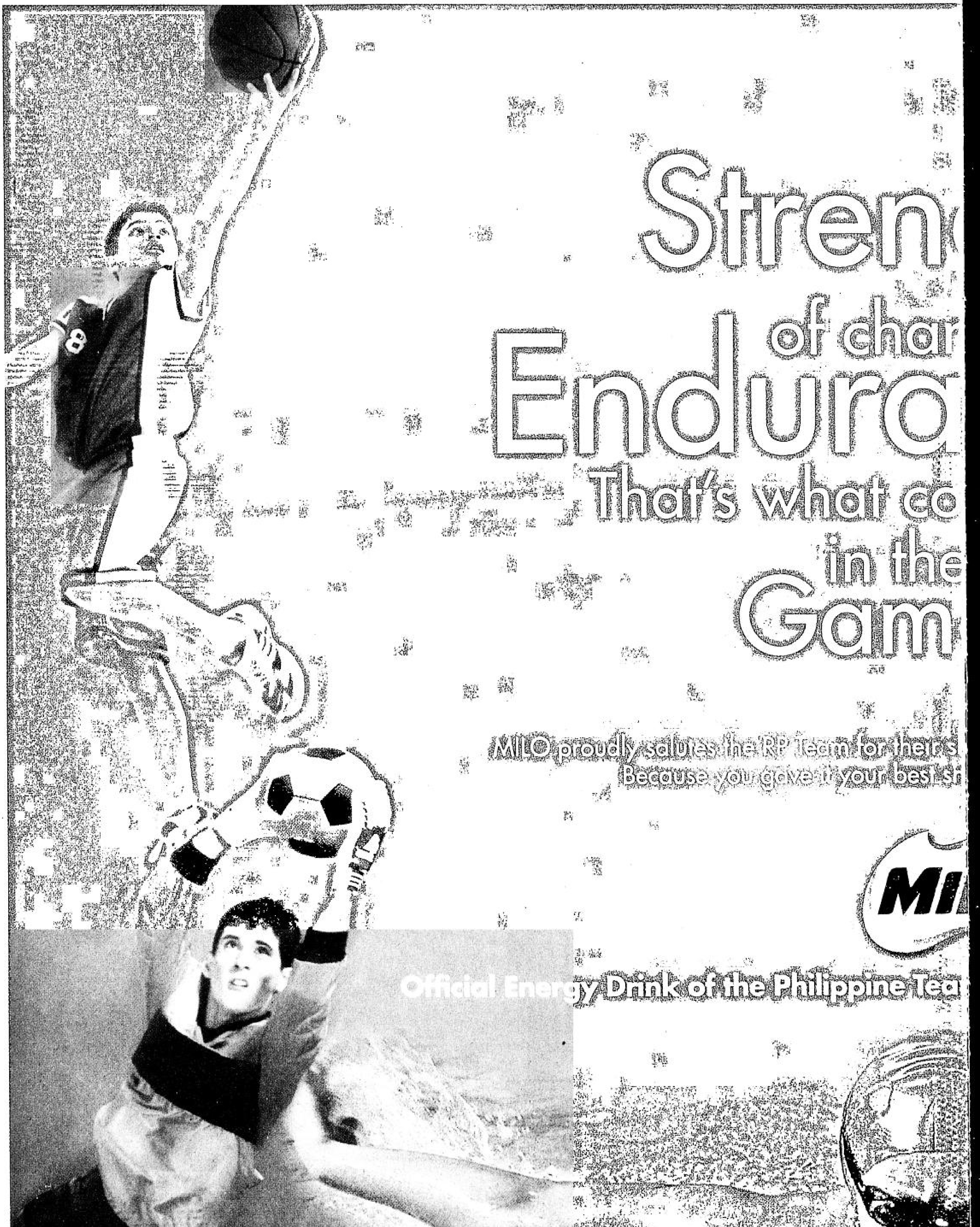
Phad Thai is relatively easy to concoct at home in less than 30 minutes. Rice stick noodles are available in Arranque market on C.M. Recto.

Ingredients

Banh Pho Thai rice sticks (or flat noodles)
3-4 pc shrimp, peeled and deveined leaving the tail intact
Bean sprouts
1 egg, beaten
Onions, sliced
Cooking oil
Kutsay (chives)
Ground unsalted roasted peanuts
1 ½ tbsp fish sauce
2 tsp sugar
1 tsp *vetsin* (optional)
1 ½ tbsp tomato catsup(optional)

For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

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Salad recipes inspired by Baguio fest

THE BAGUIO Salad Festival has become so big that the healthy habit has spilled over into Metro Manila. Master chef and restaurateur Henry Canoy has reinterpreted the festival for the sophisticated urban palate.

The delicious salad recipes were designed by Chef Henry Canoy exclusively for the Philippine Daily Inquirer. To sample Chef Canoy's masterful dishes, visit Henry's Freestyle Kitchen in Mandaluyong or Rustan's Home Café. Call 534-0475 or e-mail hfcuisine@ msn.com.

Tomatoes and Pasta with Tepanade Dressing Salade

50 g Federici Fusilli Tri Colore pasta
50-60 g whole *tomatillos* (small tomatoes), either green or red tomatoes
25 g onions, chopped
25 g celery stalk, chopped
30 g cauliflower, cooked and blanched
3 fillets Doña Elena Anchovy Fillets
50 ml Pietro Coricelli extra virgin olive oil
25 g Doña Maria capers
20 g Doña Maria pitted green olives
20 g Doña Maria pitted black olives
20 ml *aciete balsamico* (balsamic vinegar)
Salt and pepper to taste
15 ml Franzia red wine
10 g chopped onions
10 g basil, chopped
20 g parmesan or Romano cheese, shaved
Salad mix greens
Lemon wedge

Cook the Federici pasta and blanch the cauliflower; mix with 1 tbsp of Pietro Coricelli extra virgin olive oil to avoid binding. Let cool, then chill in refrigerator. (Tip: One minute before the pasta is cooked, throw in the cauliflower to blanch, drain toss and chill together to save time.)

Mix the Dressing. (Tip: Mix in a bottle with an airtight lid so the dressing can be mixed, then shake the bottle.) Mix together Pietro Coricelli extra virgin olive oil, *aciete balsamico*, salt, pepper, Franzia red wine. You will need to remix right before pouring on the salad. (Tip: If you are planning on serving the salad in a big bowl for your guests to serve themselves, leave the dressing in a bottle labeled "shake me" for your guests. If you are planning to plate the salad yourself, toss the dressing in the salad bowl right before you are to serve your guests.)

TOMATOES and Pasta with Tepanade Dressing Salade

COLD Pasta Salad with Roast Beef and White Asparagus

Toss the salad. (Tip: Chop all of the ingredients after cooking the pasta and cauliflower to give them time to cool.) Take all of the chopped vegetables and the salad greens and mix them in a large bowl.

Garnish the salad: Use the Doña Maria olives and capers, the Doña Elena anchovy fillets, the cheese slivers and the lemon wedge. (Tip: If this is a self-serve affair, avoid the urge to garnish the big bowl. The condiments are heavier than the salad and will either get scooped up first, creating an imbalanced flavor or fall to the bottom after the third guest mixes everything up. Better to leave the condiments in small bowls à la the salad bar. If you are plating this yourself, take care to evenly divide your condiments into the expected number of servings to avoid running out of garnish.)

Cold Pasta Salad with Roast Beef and White Asparagus

75 g Federici Fusilli Tri Colore pasta
50 g sliced roast beef, or leftover beef cuts
30 g chopped bell peppers
15 g Doña Maria olives stuffed with onions
20 g Jolly bottom mushrooms
15 g Jolly young corn
15 g Doña Maria black olives, pitted
15 ml Pietro Coricelli lemon olive oil
15 ml Pietro Coricelli basilico olive oil
15 ml *aciete balsamico*
Salt and pepper to taste
50 g Jolly asparagus spears
15 g onions, chopped
30 g red cabbage, half cooked and sliced thinly

Cook the pasta and blanch the cabbage; mix with 1 tbsp oil to avoid binding. Let cool, then chill in refrigerator.

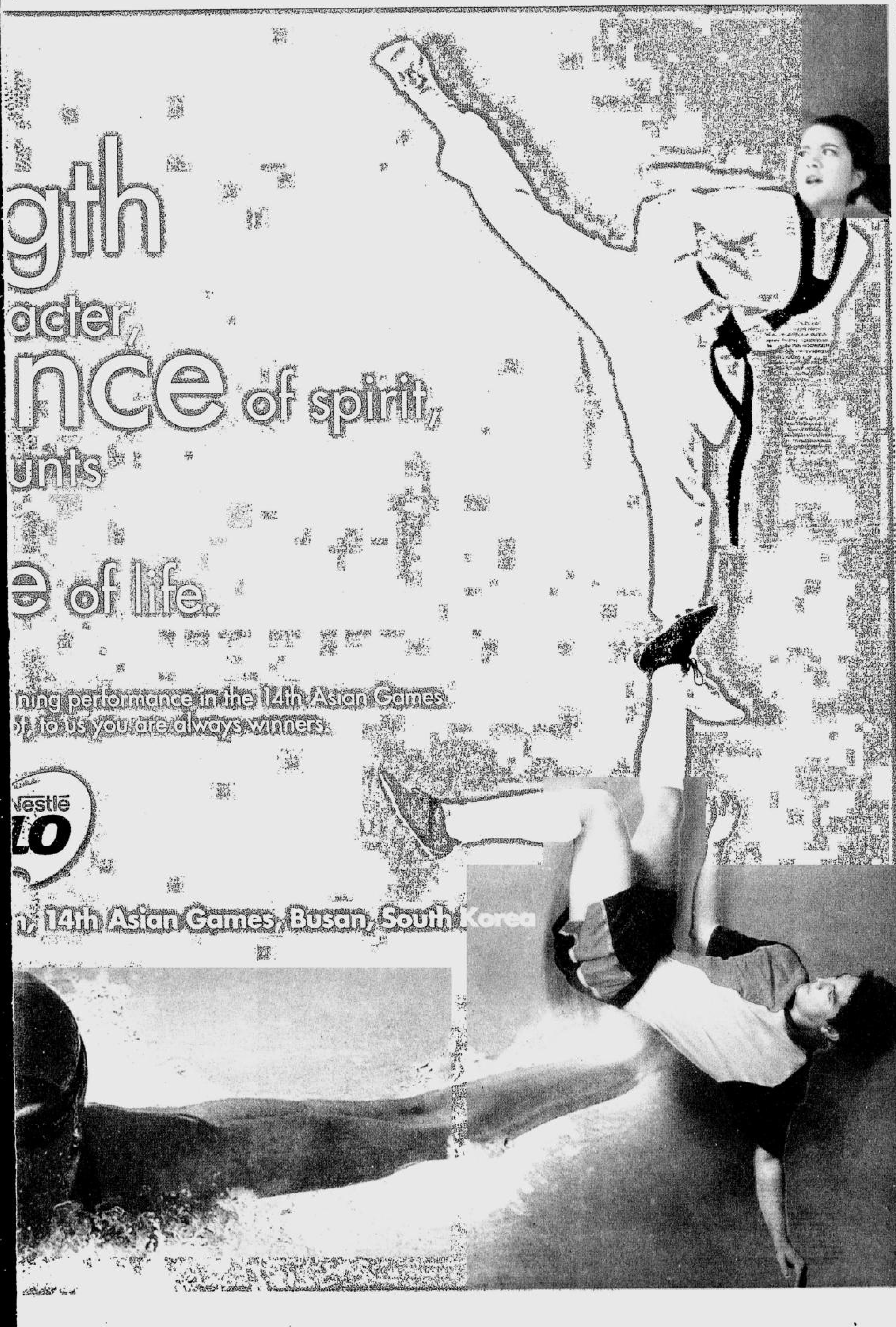
Mix the dressing: In a bowl, mix Pietro Coricelli lemon and basilico (Basil) olive oils with the *aciete balsamico* (balsamic vinegar), salt and pepper until well blended.

Immediately add the vegetables. While dressing is still mixed, add the Doña Maria olives, Jolly bottom mushrooms and young corn, the chopped onion and bell pepper, and toss 3 times. (Tip: When using canned vegetables, it is best to gently rinse in drinking water before using.)

Add the meat and toss twice.

Add the pasta and toss an additional 2 times.

Garnish with asparagus spears and serve.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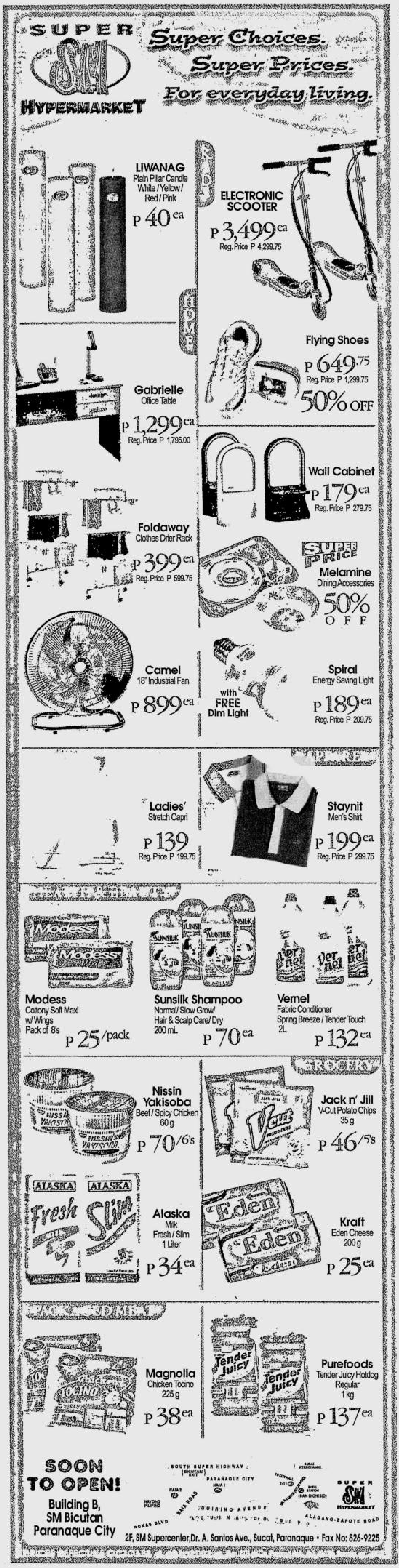
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Bake up a holiday

WITH CHRISTMAS just around the corner, the San Miguel Purefoods Culinary Center started early in giving out ideas for preparing home-baked holiday goodies, whether for gift-giving or for the family to munch on.

Jaconde Cakes and Pastries' owner Dennis D. Hipolito, a US-trained pastry chef, shared delicious and easy-to-prepare holiday recipes. He even showed how best to wrap and present these gifts.

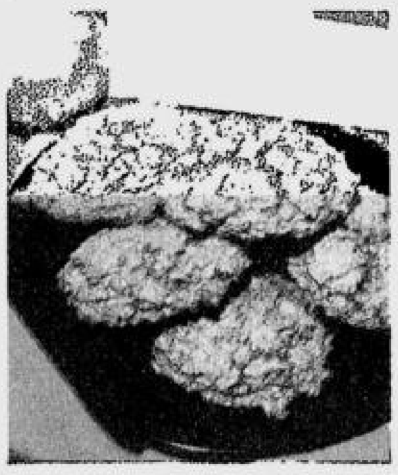
Everyone was treated to a snack of Monterey Beef Burger with Magnolia Cheezee and Magnolia Gold Buttercake, as well as samplings of Dari Creme Lite and Magnolia Queso de Bola and Purefoods Cold Cuts. They also got to bring home some raffle items from La Germania, Glad, Tefal, Petron Gasul and Magnolia Fruit Drinks.

Here are some of the recipes featured:

HONEY-ORANGE Pull Apart Bread

Honey-Orange Pull Apart Bread

Bread:
4 c all-purpose flour
1½ tsp active dry yeast
1 c fresh milk
1/3 c Magnolia Gold Butter
1/3 c granulated sugar
1 egg
½ tsp salt
Dipping mixture:
¼ c Magnolia Gold Butter
½ c nuts, chopped
1 tbsp orange peel
2 tbsp honey
½ c granulated sugar
¼ c orange juice
1 tsp vanilla


BROWNIE Oatmeal Cookies

Grease a 10-cup Bundt pan with shortening.

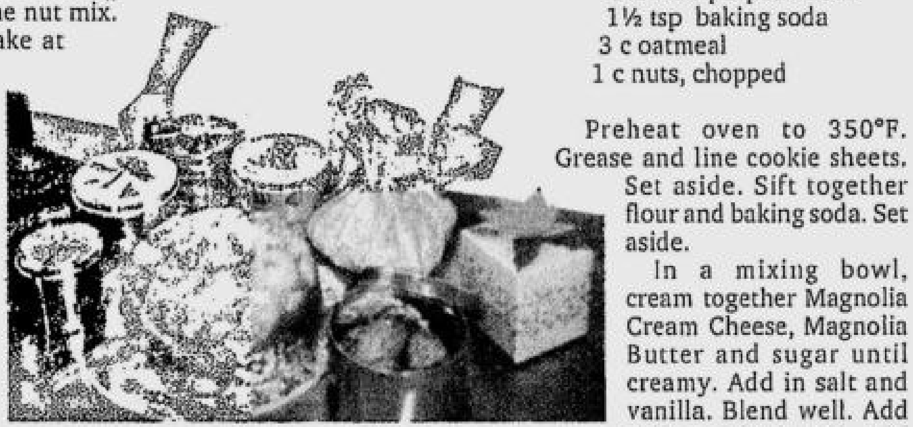
Make dough: Combine 1½ c flour and yeast. Set aside. In a saucepan, heat milk, butter, sugar and salt until warm (about 125°F) and butter is almost melted. Add flour mixture and egg. Beat in an electric mixer, using a flat beater for about 3-5 minutes till combined. Beat in remaining flour, using a dough hook and knead till dough is elastic. Let dough rise until doubled. Divide dough into quarters and divide each dough into 8 pc (you should have 32 pc). Roll each dough into balls. Set aside.

In a small bowl, combine Magnolia Butter, nuts, orange peel and honey. Mix well.

In a saucepan, combine sugar, orange juice and vanilla. Cook over high heat until sugar is dissolved and syrup begins to boil, stirring constantly. Cool until just warm.

PASTRY chef Dennis Hipolito

Assemble bread: Drizzle 1/3 of the syrup in the bottom of the prepared Bundt pan. Sprinkle with 1/3 of the nut mixture. Arrange half (16) of the rolled dough over the nuts. Repeat procedure then top with the remaining 1/3 of the sauce and 1/3 of the nut mix. Let rise until almost doubled. Bake at 350°F until golden, about 40 minutes or until internal temperature registers. Cool slightly in pan then invert onto prepared pan.



Peanut Butter Cheesecake Squares

Crust:
3 c Graham cracker crumbs
¼ c sugar
½ c Magnolia Gold Butter
Filling:
1 pack Magnolia Cream Cheese, softened
¾ c creamy peanut butter
¾ c sugar
½ c sour cream
¼ c milk
2 eggs
Glaze:
¾ c semisweet chocolate, chopped
1 tbsp Magnolia Gold Butter

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease and line a 9"x13" pan.

Crust: Combine ingredients and mix until combined. Pat over prepared pan and. bake for about 20 to 25 minutes.

Filling: In a mixing bowl, blend Magnolia Cream Cheese and sugar until smooth. Add in peanut butter, sour cream and milk. Blend till thoroughly combined. Mix in eggs. Pour over prepared crust and bake till center is set, about 25-30 minutes.

Glaze: Melt chocolate over a double boiler or melt in the microwave and add in the butter. Stir till well combined. Pour mixture into a prepared paper cone and drizzle over baked and cooled cheesecake.

Cut into squares.

Brownie Oatmeal Cookies

350 g semisweet chocolate, melted
1 pack Magnolia Cream Cheese, softened
½ c Magnolia Gold Butter, softened
1 c brown sugar
½ c granulated sugar
2 eggs
¼ tsp salt
½ tsp vanilla
1 tbsp Kahlua
1½ c all-purpose flour
1½ tsp baking soda
3 c oatmeal
1 c nuts, chopped

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease and line cookie sheets. Set aside. Sift together flour and baking soda. Set aside.

In a mixing bowl, cream together Magnolia Cream Cheese, Magnolia Butter and sugar until creamy. Add in salt and vanilla. Blend well. Add eggs and beat well. Add melted chocolate, mix well. Add sifted flour mixture and blend well. Stir in oatmeal and nuts. Mix well. Chill dough for about an hour. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Place about 3 inches apart on prepared cookie sheets and bake in pre-heated oven for about 8-10 minutes, turning once halfway through baking. Cool for about 5 minutes on cookie sheets then remove and place over wire rack to cool completely. Dust with powdered sugar.

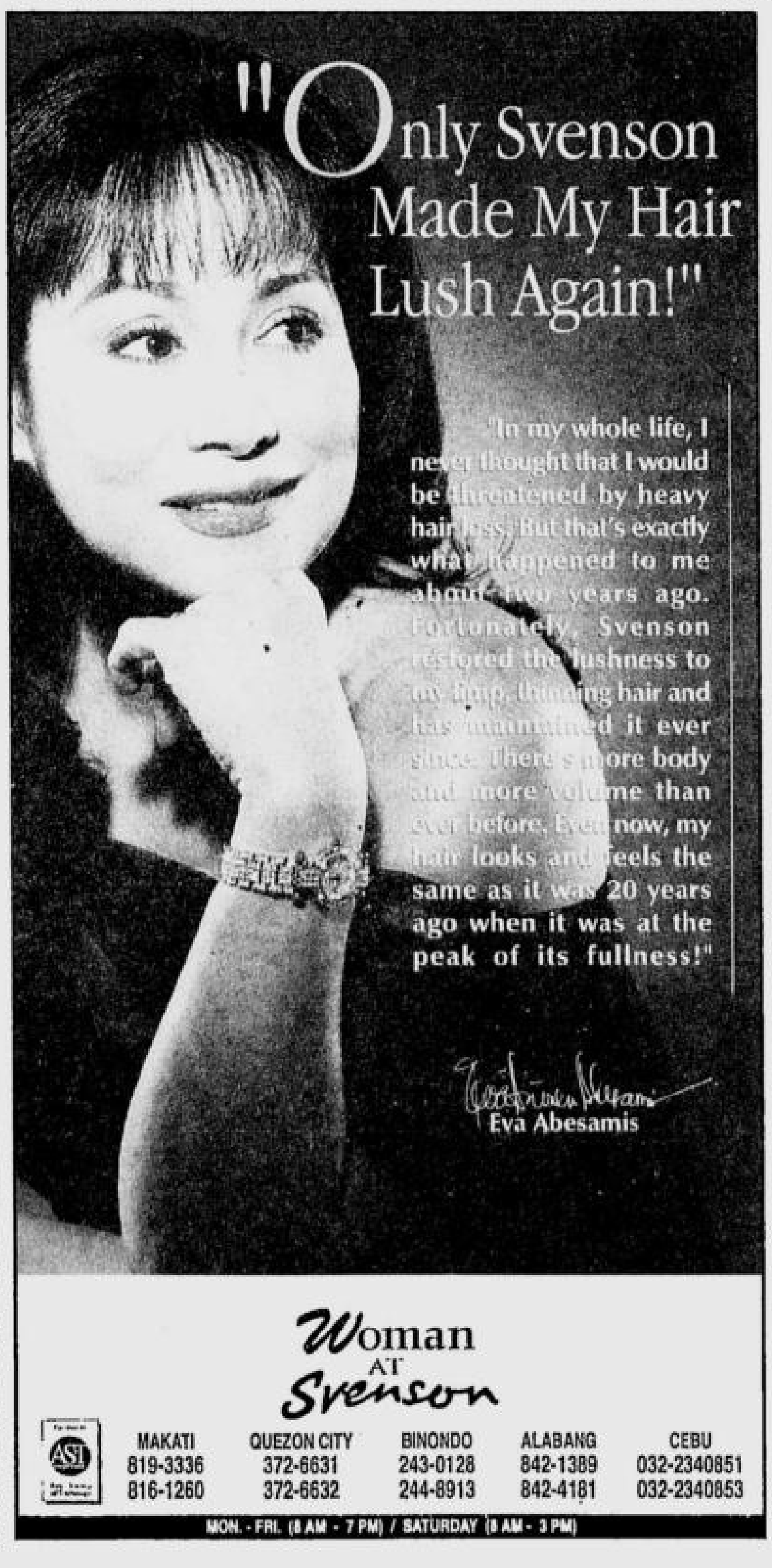
Note: ¾ c of mini chocolate chips can also be added for added richness.

Apple Nut Streusel Cake

Cake:
2 c all-purpose flour
1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp baking soda
¼ tsp salt
1 c brown sugar
2 tbsp molasses
½ c Magnolia Gold Butter
2 eggs
1 tsp vanilla or Calvados Brandy
2 pcs Granny Smith Apples, peeled and chopped
1 c sour cream
Streusel:
½ c walnuts
½ c brown sugar
½ c all-purpose flour
¼ c Magnolia Gold Butter
1 tbsp cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease and flour a 10-cup Bundt pan (9"). In a small bowl, combine streusel ingredients and mix until crumbly, set side. In a mixing bowl, sift together flour, baking powder, and baking soda. Set aside. In another mixing bowl, cream Magnolia Butter, sugar and salt till fluffy. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add in molasses and vanilla. Mix well. Add dry ingredients in three additions alternating with sour cream, beginning and ending with flour mixture. Mix in grated apple. Blend well.

Spread half of the batter evenly over prepared pan. Sprinkle with half of the prepared streusel over batter. Spread remaining batter and sprinkle with remaining streusel on top. Bake in a preheated oven till toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, about 45 minutes to an hour. Cool over a wire rack and unmold over a cake plate and serve.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LIFESTYLE

Tastes

The united flavors of Southeast Asia

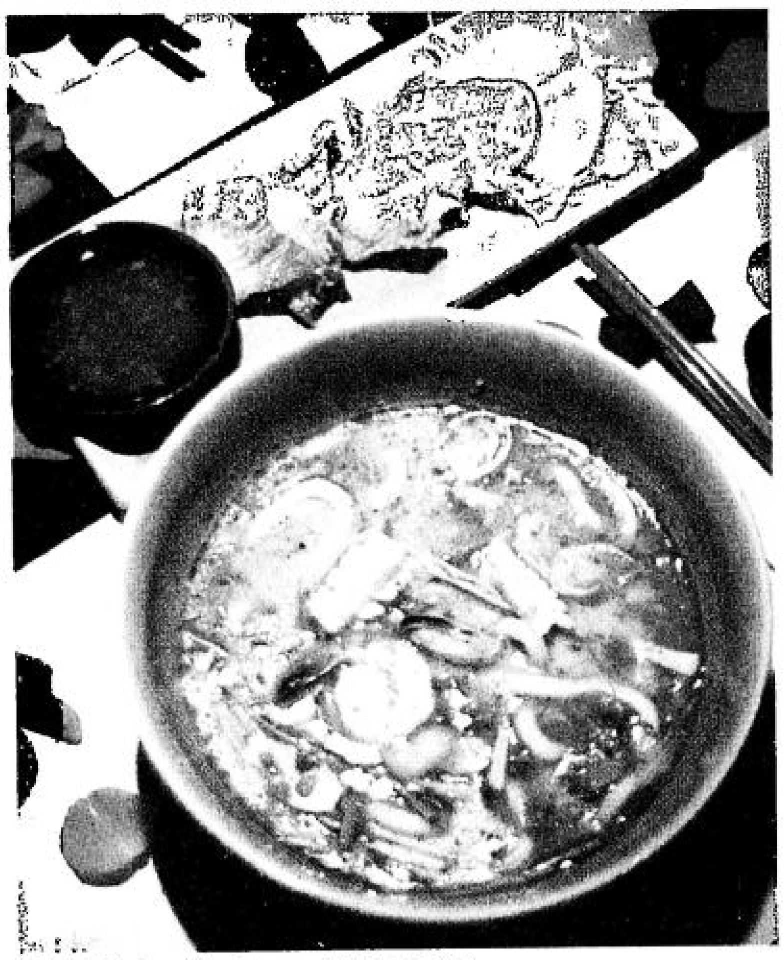
By Rowena C. Burgos

THE EMERGING niche of Southeast Asian restaurants is attracting diners seeking a bit of the mystique of the Orient. Western-style service and familiar ingredients are keeping the restaurants within the average Filipino's comfort zone.

Oody's is one of the contemporary Southeast Asian restaurants that are planting the cuisines of Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and other neighboring countries deeper into Filipino taste buds.

"I think such flavors have become a big trend. The door is now open to welcome these foods into the mainstream," says Maritel Nievera, who coowns Oody's with

THE UNITED/ p.D2



FRIED Shrimp Wanton and U-Don with Seafood Spicy Soup (Tom Yam)

Oody's serves a blend of tastes and textures, often in a single dish

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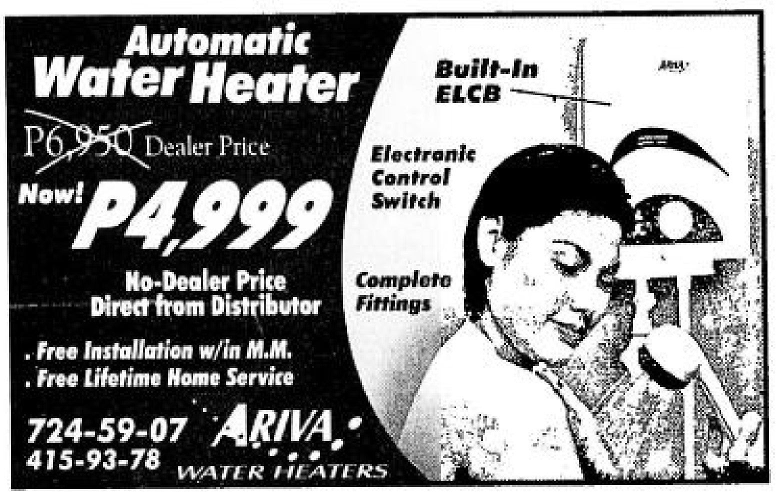

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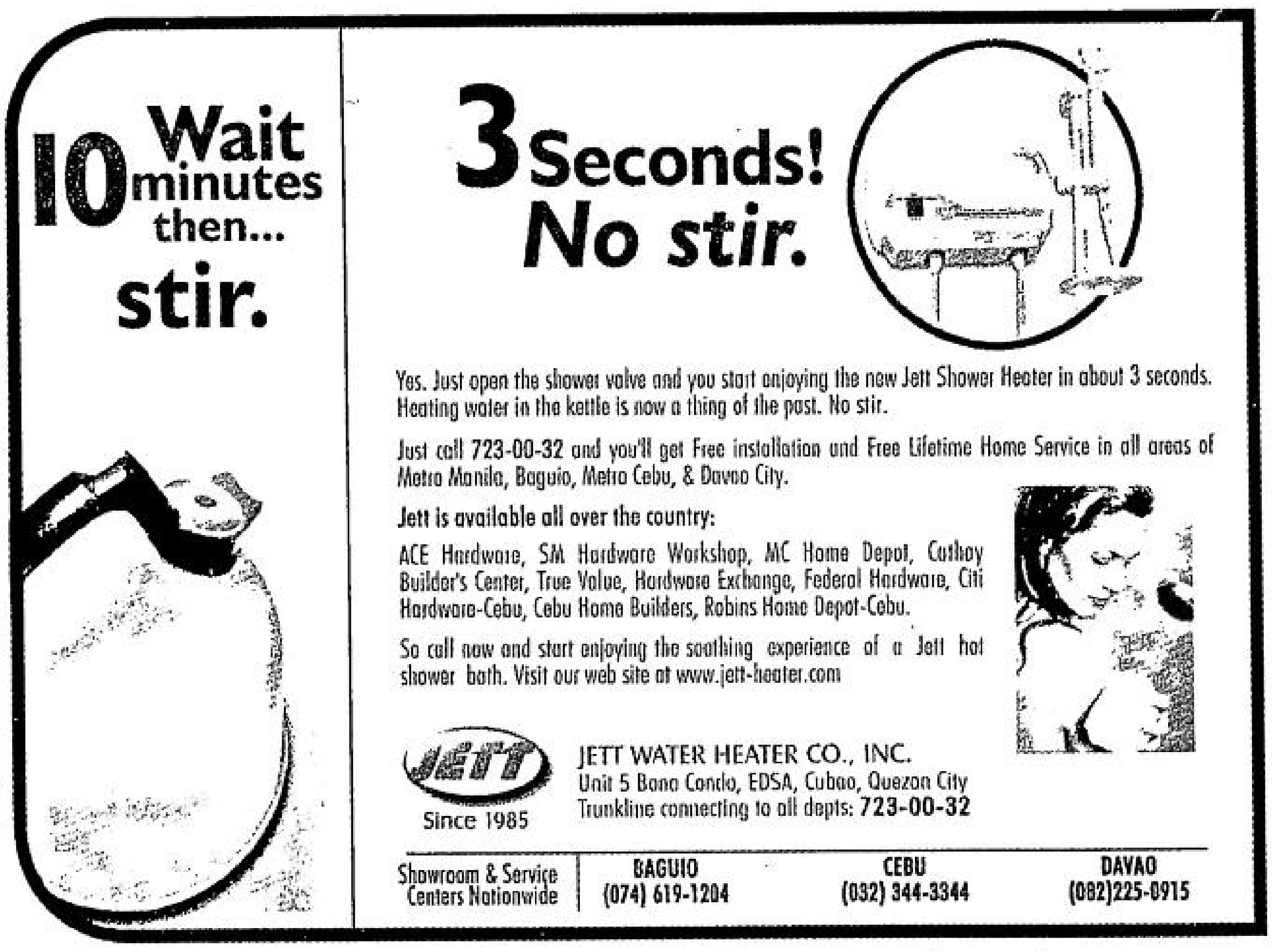

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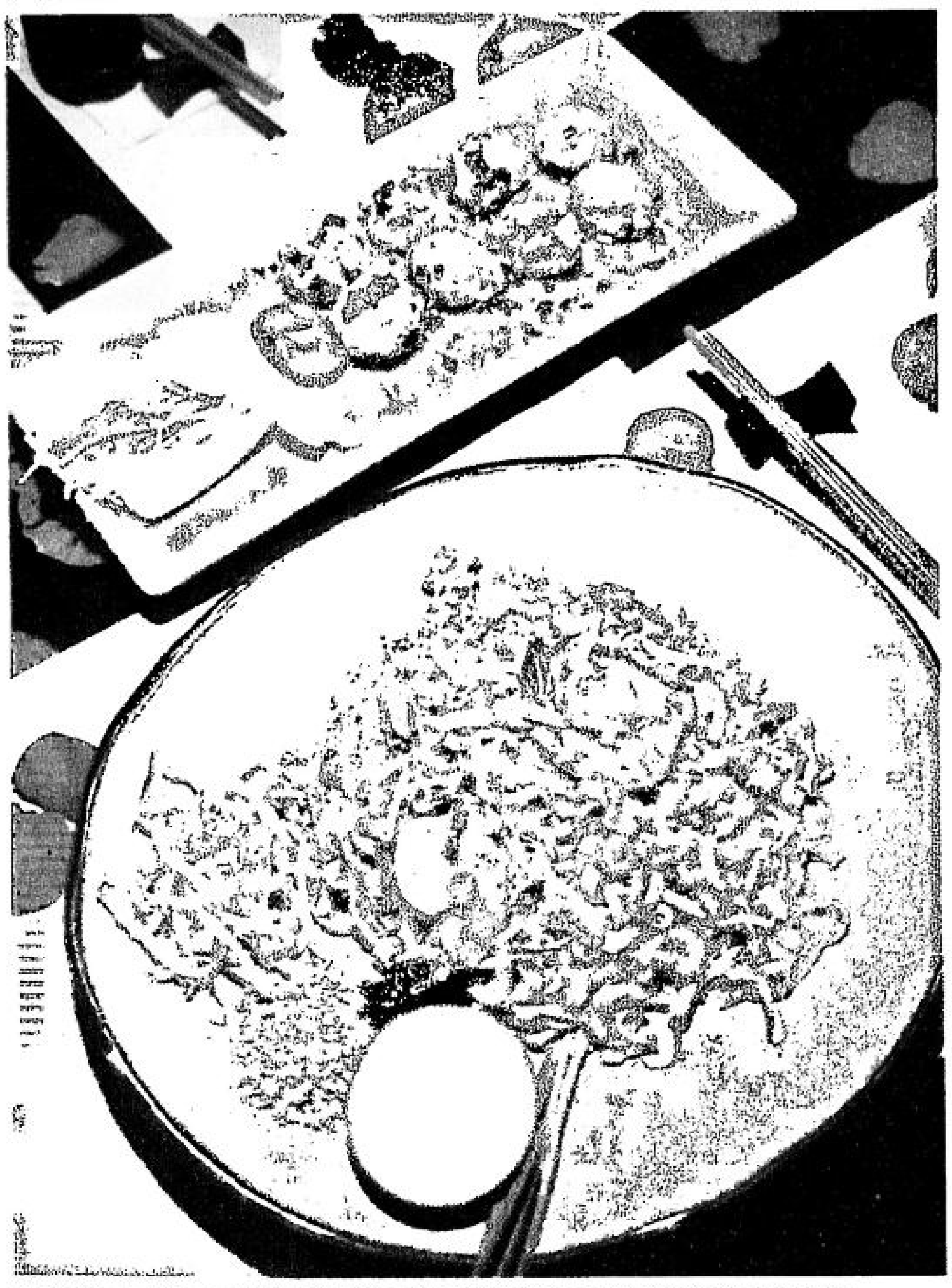


FRIED Pork Balls and Fried Thai Noodles with Shrimps, Thai Style (Phad Thai)

MANGO Salad with Fried Catfish

MARITEL Nievera and husband Dori Shani

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

MAHOGANY woodwork, glass and stainless steel accent the setting.

CHICKEN Barbecue with Papaya Salad and Sticky Rice

The united flavors of Southeast Asia

From page D1

husband Dori Shani.

For one month, Nievera and Shani traveled around Asia, exploring authentic specialties in eateries and small restaurants, which were generous enough to give them the recipes of the foods they fancied. "We then brought to Manila what we didn't have here," says Nievera, who also owns Cabalen and is a partner in Mangan.

Located on the second level of Greenbelt 3 in Makati, Oody's has a setting that's accented with mahogany work, glass and stainless steel. It is called Oody's because most of its specialties have noodles as their basic ingredient. "Besides, the name sounds funky, lively and modern," says Shani, who, together with Nievera, conceptualized Oody's' menu. He's also the restaurant's master chef.

While Asian foods have many similarities, each region has ingredients that characterize its cuisine. Thai *naam plaa*, Indonesian *sambal* and Philippine *bagoong* join flavorings and other components such as *galangal* and wood ear mushrooms to define Oody's' authentic offerings.

"There needs to be an educational push behind Asian cuisines. You can't show Phad Thai noodles to Filipino consumers and expect them to grasp the concept. We want them to taste the quality of our authentic products," Shani says.

While the Asian countries maintain distinct identities, they also have a great deal in common, and their cuisines share history, as well as many exotic spices and sauces and diverse methods of cooking.

Asian cuisines are derived from a long history of explorers and ruling regimes and have evolved over time to blend native and foreign influences within each country.

"Producing Asian food is challenging. But the key lies in understanding the philosophy of combining ingredients," Nievera says.

Fresh and intense

Asian food is generally a blend of several tastes: sweet, sour, salty, spicy and bitter. Asians prefer a combination of flavors and textures, often in a single dish.

At Oody's, blends of rice or noodles with vegetables and/or a protein source may also include something crunchy, such as nuts, or something softer, such as raisins.

As for spices and flavoring components, freshness abounds. "Asians prefer to buy fresh herbs, roots and whole spices rather than purchase ground ingredients," Shani says.

While many Westerners dislike large chunks of spices or exotic ingredients in food, Asians are used to food with flavoring that is both fresh and intense.

"Biting into a chunk of ginger or chili is not a pleasant experience for many people," he adds. "Asian cuisine involves cooking with pieces of lemon grass, whole chilies and ginger."

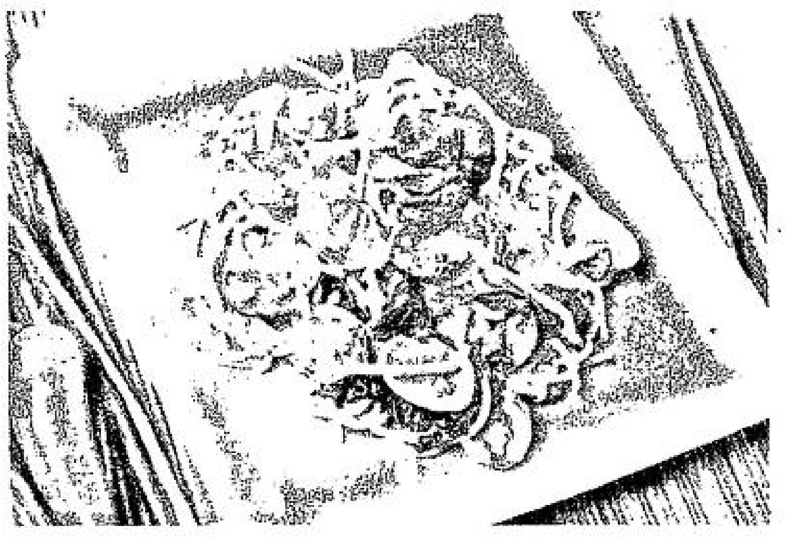
Food manufacturers face challenges such as these: Producing Asian food products free of unwanted particulates, yet with an authentic flavor. They usually have to compromise by using dried ingredients.

Rather than adding a ground powder to a dish, Asian cooks, especially in the Southeast regions, prepare spice blends through various techniques including blending whole spices and freshly grinding them, and preparing curry blends.

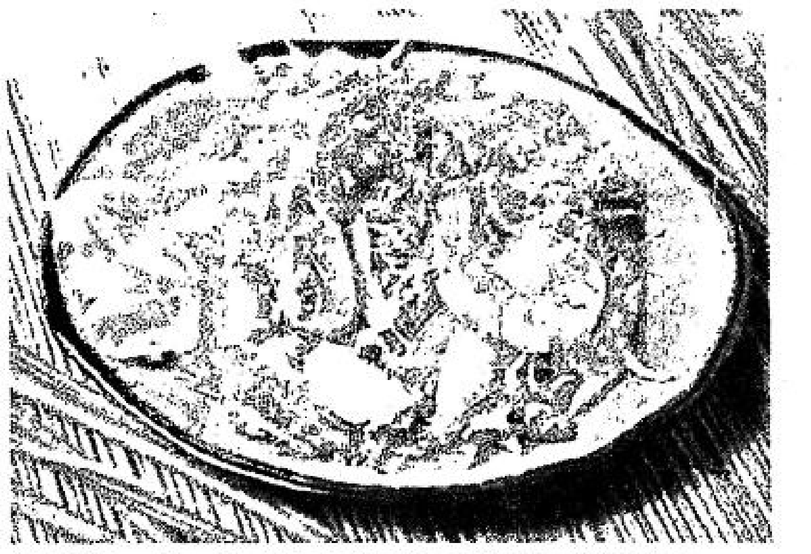
Other unique ingredients like mushrooms, Thai ginger and the dark green rind and fresh leaves of kaffir limes provide flavor, texture and color to define Asian cuisine.

"As more people focus on health and well-being, I think the heavy flavors of the past are becoming less popular. Asian flavors, such as ginger, are increasing in use. Your mouth feels refreshed after you eat it," Shani says.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

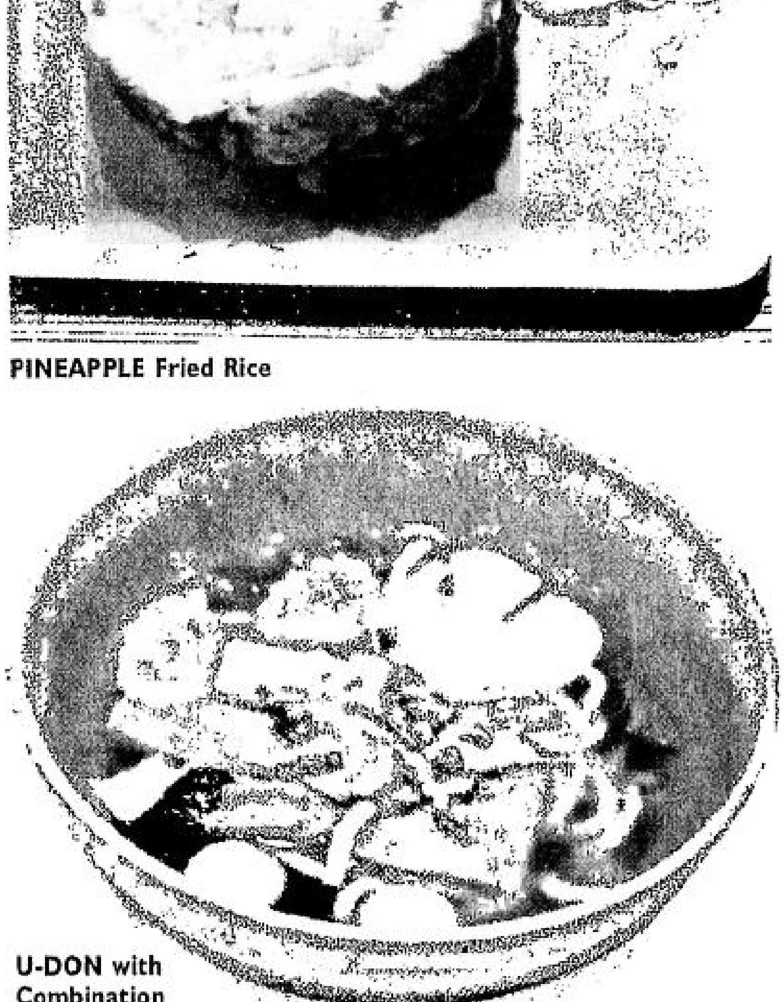


FRIED Spaghetti Clams and Chili Paste



SPICY Glass Noodles Salad with Minced Pork and Seafood

PINEAPPLE Fried Rice



U-DON with Combination Meat in Soup

The good side of scratch-number games

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

SO far, we have only received complaints from consumers who have been duped by "Kiskis-Panalo" sales gimmicks. The scratch-number game is used by unscrupulous salespersons to lure the public to buy products, usually at exorbitant prices.

Here's a letter explaining to us the good side of the game from Paul W. Wehrle of Supermarket Promotions, Old Airport Road, Dipolog City:

"Regarding your article 'Scratch-number games' (PDI Lifestyle, 09/19/02), please allow me to give another side of the story.

In the past 43 years, I have sold scratch-off promotions to thousands of supermarkets throughout the US as well as a few in the Philippines. These supermarkets have given to hundreds of thousands of their customers millions of dollars or pesos that they would not have had if it were not for these promotions.

"In reality, the 'contests' are promotions that motivate and entice the customers to spend more of their shopping dollar or peso with the said supermarket, rather than shopping it with their competitors, and certainly not 'to deceive or overprice substandard products.'

"Admittedly, there are some bad apples in this business, as in all businesses, even newspapers and columnists, and to lump us all together in the same group is not only unfair but is actually a disservice to your readers. So please have the fairness to add a 'few' or even 'some' supermarkets to your first sentence, if you choose to reply or correct.

"Our promotions allow the supermarket to generally receive a 10-15 percent increase in their business, which in turn allows them to lower their prices in many cases.

"With our promotions, everybody wins every time—the supermarket, their customers who participate, their employees, the newspapers they advertise in, including the PDI, and, yes, even us. What in the world could be wrong with that? Thank you for your time, attention and consideration."

Insurance for professional drivers

Deo Camuel of Lobo, Batangas, has this sound suggestion to our lawmakers. "Why not an insurance coverage for professional drivers? There's third party liability insurance schemes for passengers and operators of public utility vehicles. It's high time we professional drivers have an insurance program for our protection."

Camuel, a breadwinner, earned a livelihood by alternately driving a vegetable cargo truck and a taxicab. That is, until he was hit by a speeding car. The accident disabled him for two months. To augment the meager financial aid he received from the truck owner and the loans from relatives and friends, his wife sold vegetables and fish around town.

"It would have alleviated my plight if drivers like myself had a professional drivers insurance program," Camuel said.

Gripe against tollway guards

Rey V. Constantino of Philam, Las Piñas, resented the high-handed way he was treated by guards at the PEATC tollways. He related to us that it all started when he stopped his car along Coastal Road in front of the Chinese pagoda so his nephew could get off. "I was surprised when a guard motioned to me to drive over and park near his patrol car, several meters away from the pagoda. The guard had also apprehended another motorist and was evidently trying to confiscate the driver's identification card that was hanging by the rearview mirror, but failed in the attempt.

"He then turned to me. When I asked him what my violation was, he shouted that 'unloading in front of the pagoda is not allowed.' I reasoned out I didn't know since there was no signage anywhere to inform motorists. He grabbed my driver's license even as I was still taking it out of my wallet. Then he went back to the other car to remove its plate number. When the driver refused to yield the plate, the guard went for his shotgun.

"The guard was obviously on the warpath if not for the timely intervention of a certain Jerry Delgado, who wore a TF Dragon ID. He arrived with two PEATC motorcycle cops. The guard that apprehended us turned meek as a lamb."

That was not the end of Constantino's memorable experience. He claimed that when he later tried to deliver a letter of complaint to PEATC chair Ernest Villareal, two guards demanded to read his letter. When he refused, the guards asked for his license and accused him of "entering a prohibited area." Constantino complained against the guards of "grave threat, intimidation, arrogance, discourtesy, and complete disregard for my right as a PEATC tollway user of many years."

Manila tollways act on complaint

Anna T. Gamboa of Citra Metro Tollways Corporation sent us a reply to the complaint of Alan D. R. de Luzuriaga about his e-pass card. Gamboa wrote: "We took serious note of the letter of Alan D. R. Luzuriaga published last Aug. 29 in this column and would like to request for his contact number or e-mail address. We are looking into his complaint but we need details like when the unpleasant incident happened. We couldn't find an e-pass account registered in his name. We instead have one J. Ferdinand B. Luzuriaga. Nonetheless, pending receipt of the requested information, we would like to apologize to him and assure him that his complaint will be addressed accordingly."

Notes from readers

Bong Lucero wrote: "I bought a 29-inch TCL television set because it was assembled in the Philippines. It broke down three weeks later, and within the year broke down again. The good news is that recently, I contacted their office in Laguna, and the company agreed to replace my set with a brand new one. It is reassuring that there are companies in our communities that stand by their products."

Luz Torres is requesting Macro to coordinate pricing of products on the shelves and on the cash register. "I noticed that today, the shelf price per box of Calvine Lambrusco Bianco was P642. On another shelf, the same product was priced at P834, but cash register price was P1074.60. It could be an honest mistake but customers should check the cash register price against the shelf price. When discrepancies are noted, they should bring them to the attention of the senior members of the staff."

From Maria Paz V. Laperal: "Customers should always make sure that they're getting the same medicine written on the doctor's prescription order. Sometimes pharmacists make mistakes, for example, a salesclerk at the Mercury Drug store in Park Square, Makati, who gave us the wrong box of medicine. We noticed the mistake while we were already in the car. I went back to the store to report the mistake to the supervisor and got the correct item. The pharmacist apologized, but I had to pay more for the correct medicine."

Laperal also pointed out, "Names of drugs and expiration dates on the package are in microscopic prints that are difficult to decipher."

E-mail the author at mgiron@csi.com.ph

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20 years of triumph over the hands of time. 20 years of successful Reverse Ageing in the Philippines. More than 20 branches all over Asia. Now that's more than enough reason to celebrate!

On October 10 & 11, 2002, Facial Care Centre toasted its 20th Anniversary. To celebrate two excellent decades of skincare expertise, FCC wanted nothing else than to share the moment with its very own clients, the women who made these 20 years possible. So they got 20 beautiful women to blow the 20 candles on 20 individual cakes. The list of VIP clients and models include: April Marcial-Stewart, Ana Roces, Cheska Garcia, Jeanette Jimenez-Pumaren, Dinah Dominguez, Barbie Ang-Chan, Fely Ong, Jenny Sarmiento-Icasas, Irene Enriquez, Angel Lesaca-Rosales, Marilen Tomacruz, Bobbit Sebastian, Evelyn Tan, and Anabelle Cristobal, with FCC Makati Manager Veronica Uy.

Facial Care Centre is known all over Asia as the leading skincare expert, with technologically advanced treatments and products that help both women and men achieve and maintain the healthy, great-looking skin they've always wanted. For the past 20 years, FCC has always been the pioneer in bringing the latest technological breakthroughs in skincare to the Philippines, some of the most recent of which are the highly acclaimed LaserLight Hair Removal, Power Peel, and now - DermaLux Photorejuvenation - the newest addition to Facial Care Centre's professional skin improvement system.

October 11, 2002 also marked the blessing/inauguration of the newly-expanded FCC Shaw, another example of FCC's constant efforts in improving its facilities and services. Beginning in the early 1980s with its only branch in Makati, Facial Care Centre now has nine branches all over the Philippines, including one in Cebu City. The last couple of years alone has been a witness to FCC's continuous expansion and development, as it opened two new branches in Congressional and Pampanga, and transferred most of its other branches to better, more luxurious, more accessible locations in the Metropolis. All these efforts to provide its clients with the most effective, most relaxing skincare experience.

20 years of Reverse Ageing expertise truly makes Facial Care Centre an incomparable leader in the beauty and skin improvement industry. Truly a great reason to celebrate!

To experience Facial Care Centre's promise of Reverse Ageing, just dial the branch nearest you: Makati - 8161259 / Ortigas - 6872196 / Quezon City - 3726633 / Shaw - 5347701 / Alabang - 8421144 / Binondo - 2438138 / Congressional - 9207938 / Pampanga - 9613404 / Cebu - 2337631.

Facial Care Centre Shaw's Blessing
April Stewart
Cheska Garcia
Fely Ong

TO FCC,
HAPPY 20th ANNIVERSARY! MORE POWER TO YOUR BUSINESS... BECAUSE OF YOUR TREATMENTS I HAVE IMPROVED AND MY CONFIDENCE WAS ENHANCED.
KEEP UP THE GOOD SERVICE AND YOUR ENDLESS GIMMICKS TO MAKE MORE WOMEN RELAX AND ENJOY THE BEAUTY YOU DRAW FROM WITHIN!
Jenny Icasas

Happy 20th Anniversary.
All these years you've managed to be the only secret I've always been proud to give away -
More years of being a woman's best-kept, best-held secret -
April Stewart

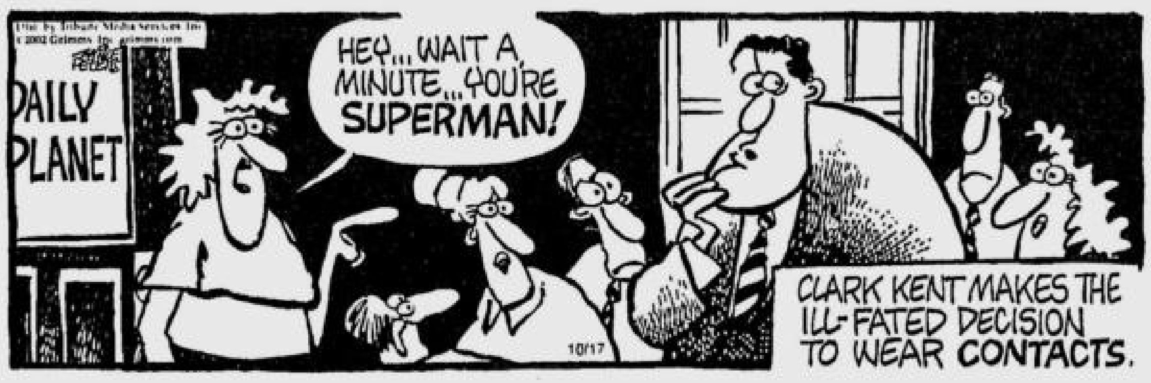
Dear Facial Care Center,
thanks for making LIFE (for women) easier, & more BEAUTIFUL!
Love,

TO FACIAL CARE,
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 20th YEAR!
20 YEARS OF MAKING US MORE BEAUTIFUL... AND HOPEFULLY ANOTHER 20 YEARS TO COME.

dear FACIAL CARE,
HAPPY 20TH YEAR!
Thank you for the wonderful care you have been taking of my skin!
love Cristina x

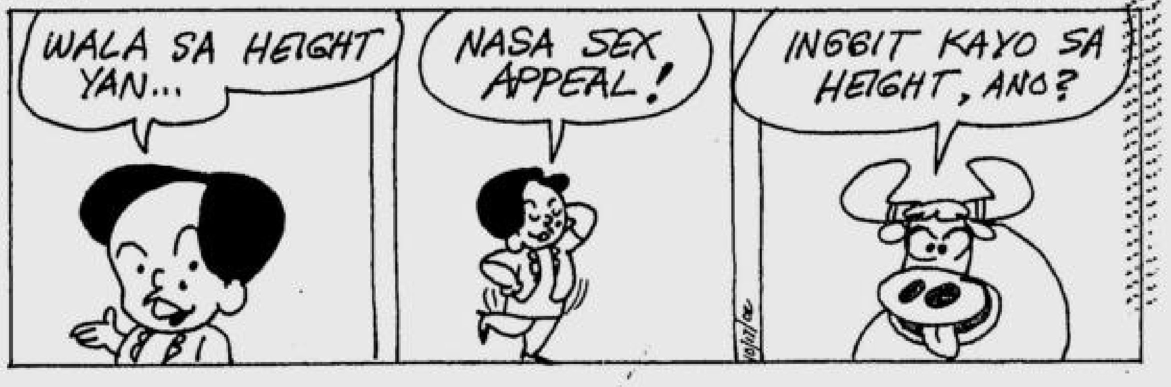
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


DAILY PLANET
HEY... WAIT A MINUTE... YOU'RE SUPERMAN!
CLARK KENT MAKES THE ILL-FATED DECISION TO WEAR CONTACTS.
10/17

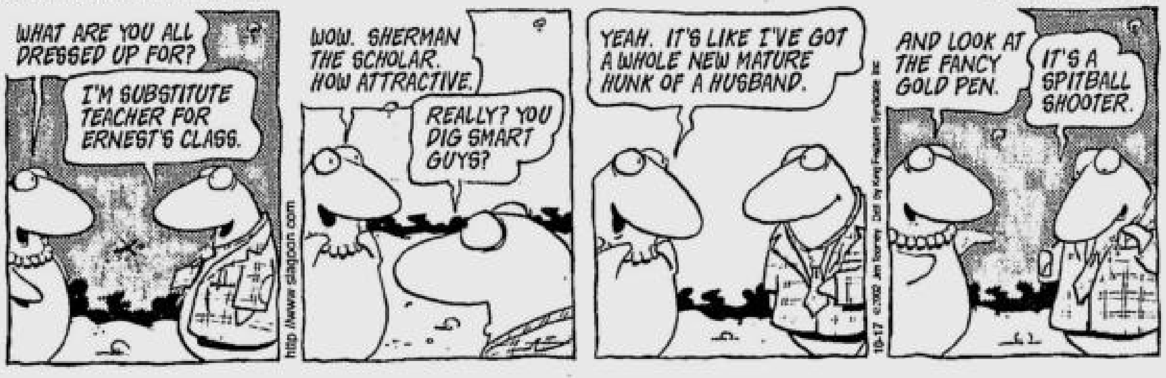
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


WALA SA HEIGHT YAN...
NASA SEX APPEAL!
INGGIT KAYO SA HEIGHT, ANO?

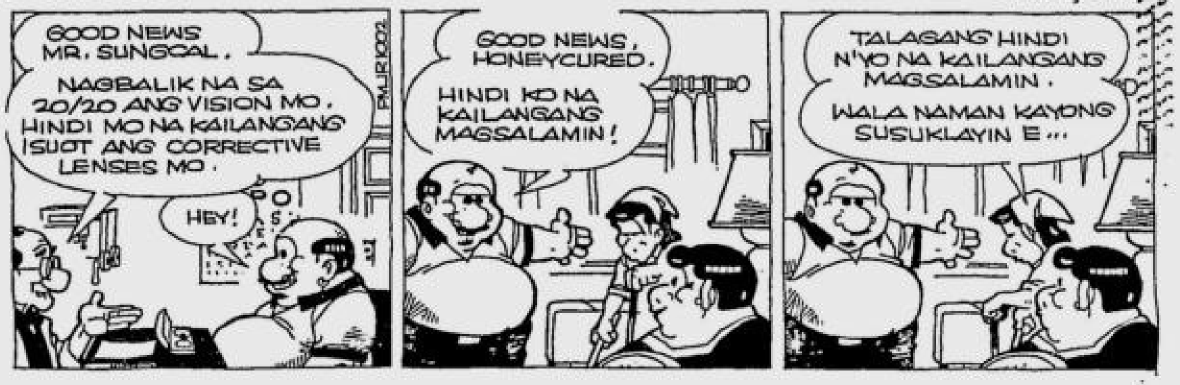
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WHAT ARE YOU ALL DRESSED UP FOR?
I'M SUBSTITUTE TEACHER FOR ERNEST'S CLASS.
WOW. SHERMAN THE SCHOLAR. HOW ATTRACTIVE.
REALLY? YOU DIG SMART GUYS?
YEAH. IT'S LIKE I'VE GOT A WHOLE NEW MATURE HUNK OF A HUSBAND.
AND LOOK AT THE FANCY GOLD PEN.
IT'S A SPITBALL SHOOTER.
http://www.slagoon.com
10-17

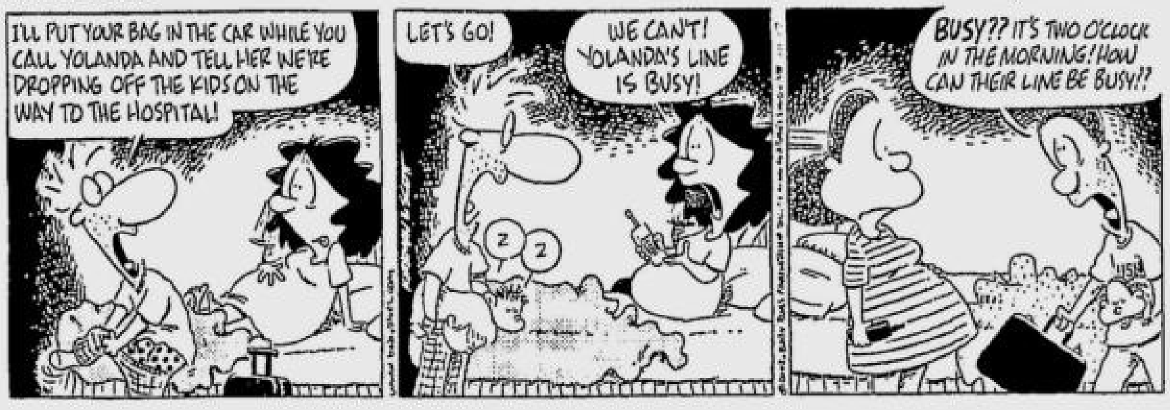
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


GOOD NEWS MR. SUNGCAL.
NAGBALIK NA SA 20/20 ANG VISION MO. HINDI MO NA KAILANGANG ISUOT ANG CORRECTIVE LENSES MO.
HEY!
PMJR1002
GOOD NEWS, HONEYCURED.
HINDI KO NA KAILANGANG MAGSALAMIN!
TALAGANG HINDI N'YO NA KAILANGANG MAGSALAMIN.
WALA NAMAN KAYONG SUSUKLAYIN E...

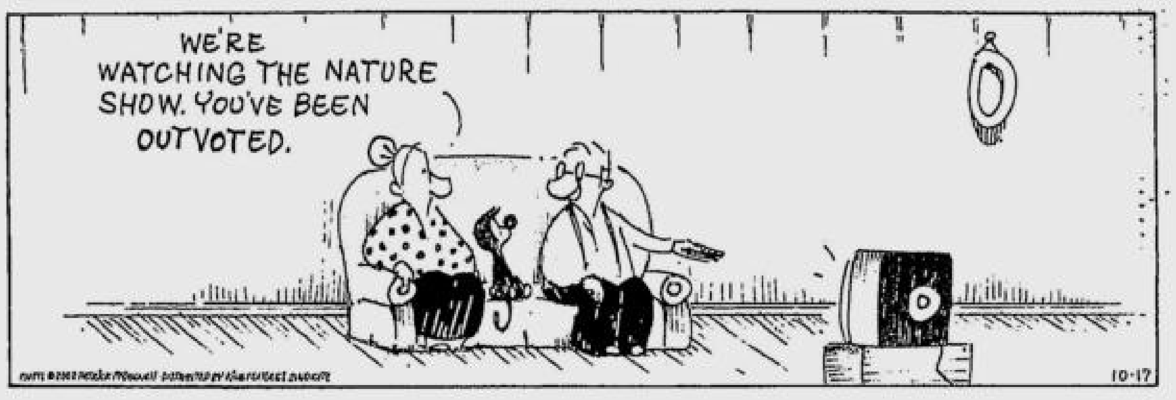
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I'LL PUT YOUR BAG IN THE CAR WHILE YOU CALL YOLANDA AND TELL HER WE'RE DROPPING OFF THE KIDS ON THE WAY TO THE HOSPITAL!
LET'S GO!
WE CAN'T! YOLANDA'S LINE IS BUSY!
Z Z
BUSY?? IT'S TWO O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING! HOW CAN THEIR LINE BE BUSY!?

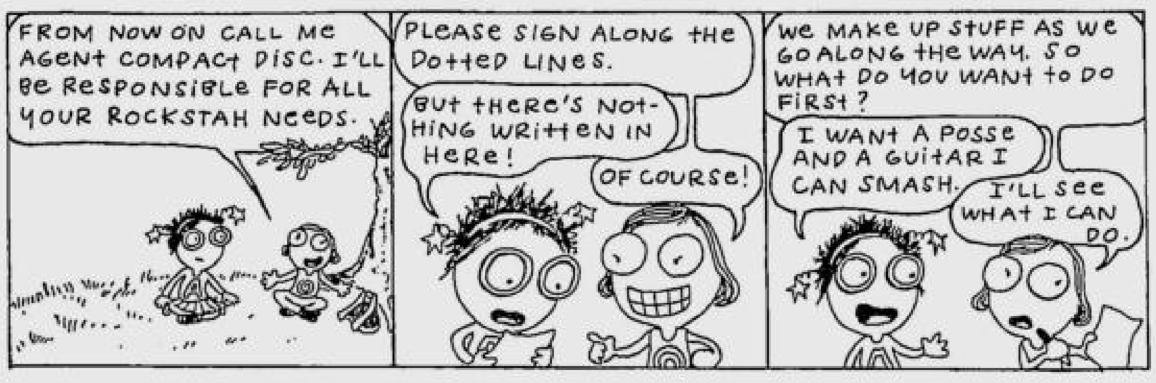
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WE'RE WATCHING THE NATURE SHOW. YOU'VE BEEN OUTVOTED.
10-17

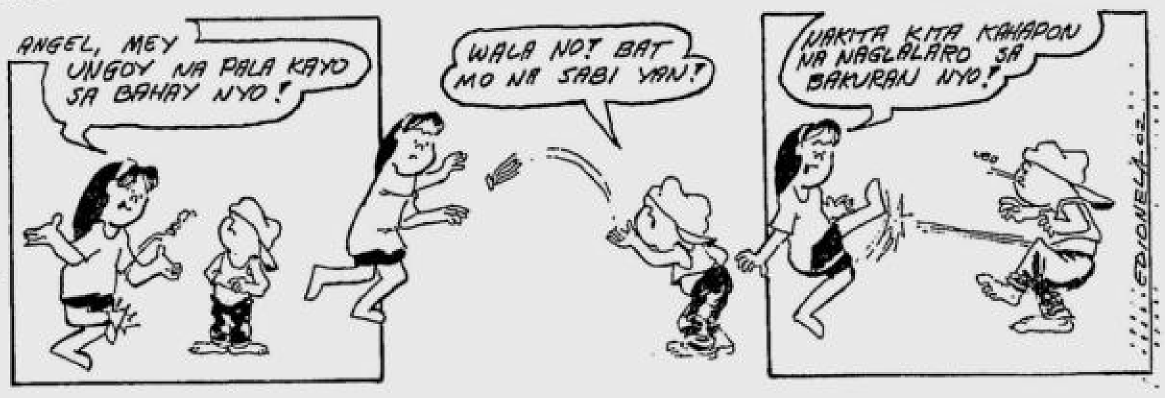
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


FROM NOW ON CALL ME AGENT COMPACT DISC. I'LL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL YOUR ROCKSTAH NEEDS.
PLEASE SIGN ALONG THE DOTTED LINES.
BUT THERE'S NOTHING WRITTEN IN HERE!
OF COURSE!
WE MAKE UP STUFF AS WE GO ALONG THE WAY. SO WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO FIRST?
I WANT A POSSE AND A GUITAR I CAN SMASH.
I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.

SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANGEL, MEY UNGOY NA PALA KAYO SA BAHAY NYO!
WALA NO! BAT MO NA SABI YAN?
NAKITA KITA KAHAPON NA NAGLALARO SA BAKURAN NYO!
E. DIONELA '02

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Beverly Garland, George Wendt, Margot Kidder, Evel Knievel

Happy Birthday: You may need to step back and take a second look at some of the projects you are working on this year. More details may be required to advance in the direction you've been trying to go. Set your priorities straight so that you don't fall short of your expectations. and exciting connections. Your numbers are 2, 9, 13, 24, 27, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can get others to do things for you, but be sure not to overpay them or lend them money. Educational pursuits will bring you in touch with interesting, helpful people. Take advantage of the situations you are in.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Difficulties with your mate may lead to estrangement. Don't rely on others to handle the workload. You may have personal problems, but professional duties may be pressing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can utilize your versatile mind in all that you do. Your ability to perform with speed and accuracy will dazzle those around you and create new opportunities.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Health problems may prevail if you haven't been getting enough rest. Make sure you look after yourself. Be careful not to take on other people's problems.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may find that relationships are not going as well as you'd like. Disappointments are likely if your mate embarrasses you in front of friends. It may be time to reassess all your relationships.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can come up with future trends in creative fields. Don't hesitate to present your unique ideas. You may have difficulties with someone who lives with you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can pick up wonderful buys if you really look hard today. Invite friends over rather than spend money on lavish entertainment. Money is not the basis for having fun.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be sure to double-check the house on your way out. The locks, stove, gas or electric wires may not be secure. You have been preoccupied lately and haven't been as observant as you should be.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can get phenomenal returns if you present your ideas to those who can back your interests. You will find them far more receptive than you expect.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can mix business with pleasure to get favorable results. Your persuasive nature will win the heart of someone you've had your eye on. Don't be afraid to pull out all the stops and go for it.

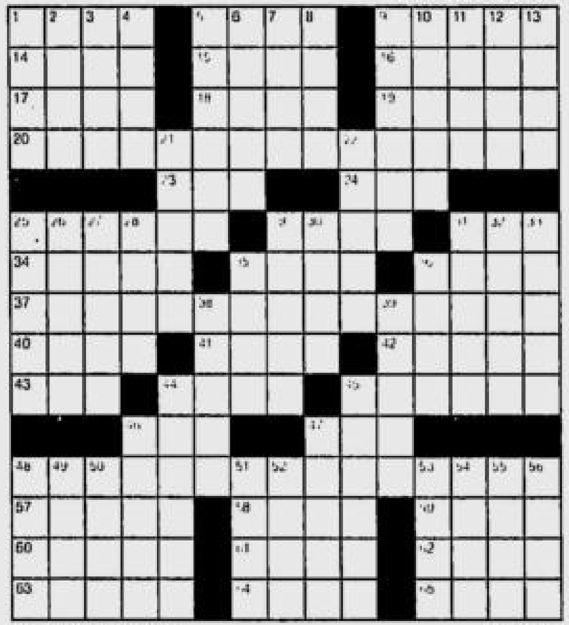
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will learn valuable information if you travel today. You can make reasonable bids on real estate or large items for your home. You can be assured of getting good value for your money.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can make personal changes that will enhance your appearance. Try a fitness program or see about a makeover. These alterations can bring you greater popularity. Get involved in the activities of children.

Birthday Baby: You will search for knowledge throughout your life. You are sophisticated, intelligent and in tune with those around you. You will have the creative talent to visualize and produce.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

10/17/02

ACROSS
1 First name in jeans
5 Outdoors quarters
9 Tentative guesses
14 One litmus test conclusion
15 Ersatz butter
16 Brief star appearance
17 Beseech
18 Joker or jokester
19 Sour-tasting, old-style
20 Use influence
23 Besides
24 Fall mo.
25 Lap protector
29 Salad veggie
31 Suppositions
34 Director Woody
35 Last word in a threat
36 Cookie or piece of cake
37 Work on compromise
40 Diner food
41 Repeated rhythmic phrase
42 Extend a subscription
43 Thar __ blows!
44 Delta deposit
45 Cringes
46 How __ I to know?
47 Writer Fleming
48 Expand beyond current limitations
57 During a broadcast
58 Fill the hold
59 Peak
60 One of a sailing trio
61 On a cruise
62 Herd mama
63 Pricey
64 __ of kin
65 Added benefit

DOWN
1 Sami
2 Stocking shade
3 Serum container
4 Pastoral poem
5 Larva covering
6 Crockett's last stand
7 Only that
8 Whale groups
9 In short supply
10 Unspoken
11 You said it!
12 Ocean ice
13 Mournful sounds
21 Smart
22 Small memento
25 Scruffs
26 Koran deity
27 Metal sheet
28 Marathon and Longboat, e.g.
29 Fissure
30 Armed services grp.
31 Silly
32 Impostor
33 Gushes
35 Devil's doings
36 Hodgepodge
38 __ setter
39 Hum one note
44 Persian governor
45 Admonition
46 Egg component
47 Directory
48 Bursts
49 Core group
50 All there
51 Panache
52 Life of Riley
53 End-table item
54 October birthstone
55 Lake Titicaca's location
56 Former spouses

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

B	A	L	M	■	M	A	A	M	■	M	E	A	T	Y
A	L	O	E	■	A	B	L	E	■	A	L	F	I	E
S	I	G	N	■	S	A	D	A	■	G	I	F	T	S
I	B	O	U	G	H	T	A	N	A	U	D	I	O	■
S	I	N	■	L	I	E	S	■	R	E	E	D	■	■
■	■	■	B	E	E	S	■	L	O	Y	■	A	L	B
S	A	M	O	A	■	■	A	I	M	■	M	V	I	I
C	L	E	A	N	I	N	G	T	A	P	E	I	M	A
O	L	D	S	■	P	O	E	■	■	E	S	T	E	S
T	A	I	■	L	A	D	■	S	E	A	S	■	■	■
■	■	C	A	I	N	■	Z	I	N	C	■	T	E	A
■	B	I	G	F	A	N	O	F	T	H	E	I	R	S
D	O	N	A	T	■	A	N	T	I	■	L	E	A	K
E	L	A	T	E	■	M	E	E	T	■	M	U	S	E
B	A	L	E	D	■	E	D	D	Y	■	S	P	E	W

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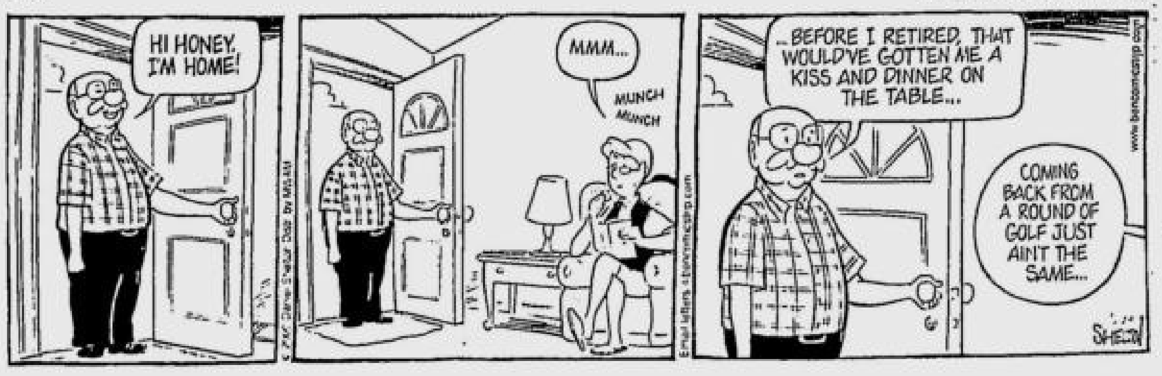
10/17/02

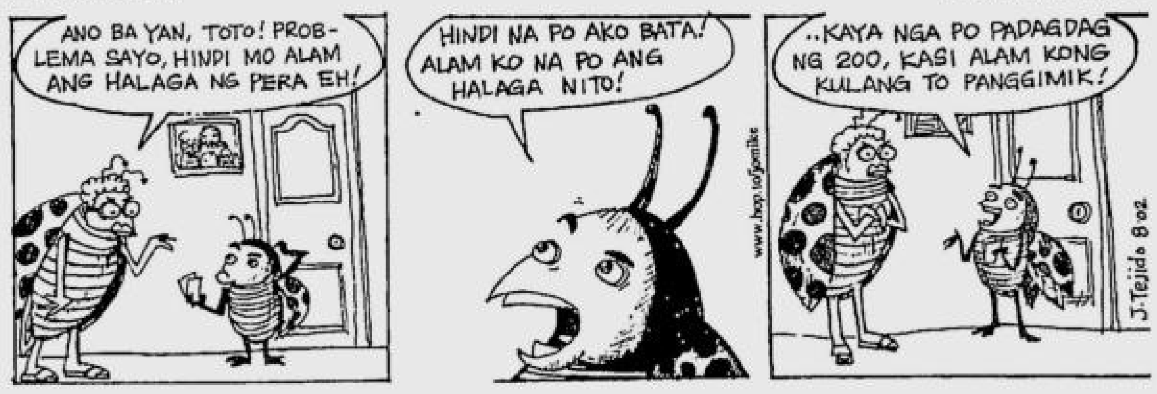
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HI HONEY, I'M HOME!
MMM...
MUNCH MUNCH
...BEFORE I RETIRED, THAT WOULD'VE GOTTEN ME A KISS AND DINNER ON THE TABLE...
COMING BACK FROM A ROUND OF GOLF JUST AIN'T THE SAME...
SHELTON

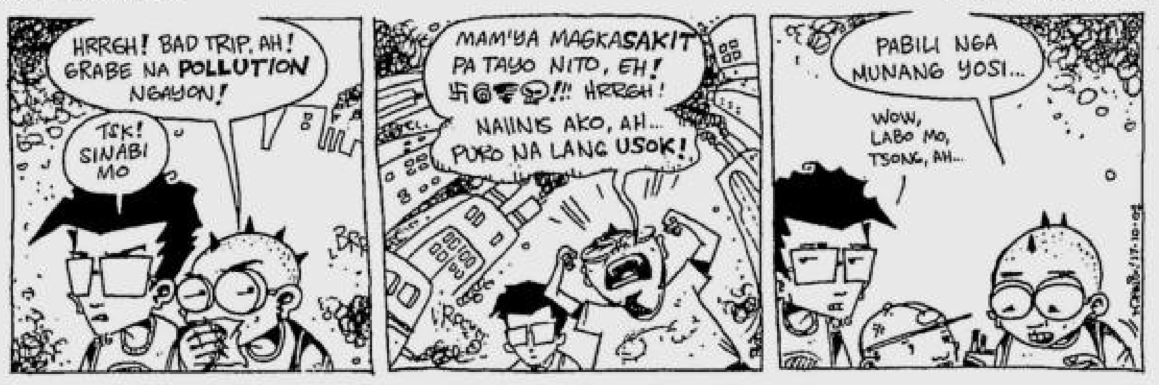
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANO BA YAN, TOTO! PROBLEMA SAYO, HINDI MO ALAM ANG HALAGA NG PERA EH!
HINDI NA PO AKO BATA! ALAM KO NA PO ANG HALAGA NITO!
www.hop.to/jomike
..KAYA NGA PO PADAGDAG NG 200, KASI ALAM KONG KULANG TO PANGGIMIK!
J. Tejido 8 02

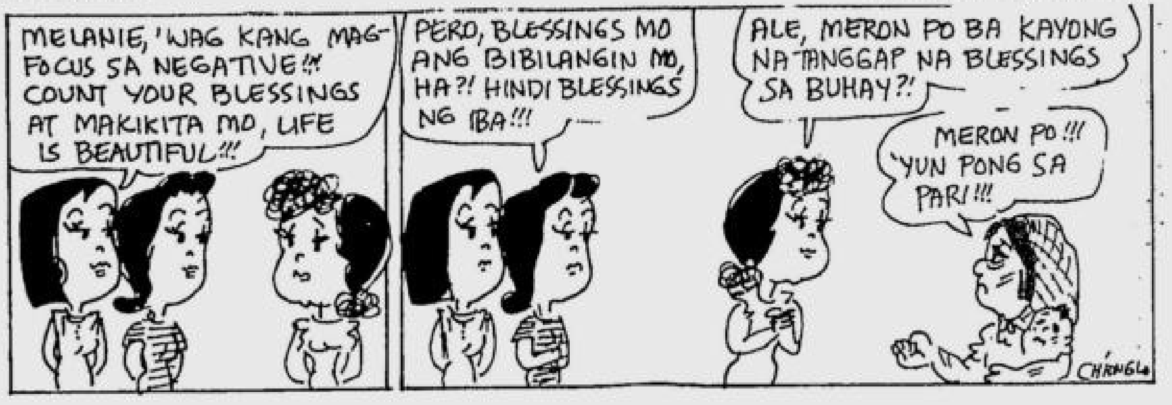
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HRRGH! BAD TRIP, AH! GRABE NA POLLUTION NGAYON!
TSK! SINABI MO
MAM'YA MAGKASAKIT PA TAYO NITO, EH!
HRRGH!
NAIINIS AKO, AH... PURO NA LANG USOK!
PABILI NGA MUNANG YOSI...
WOW, LABO MO, TSONG, AH...

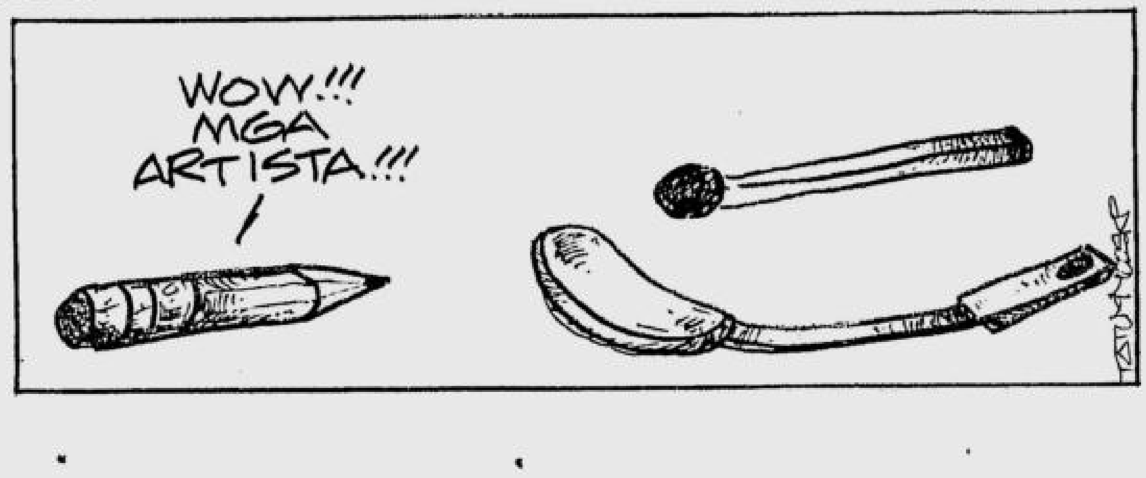
LOVEKNOTS

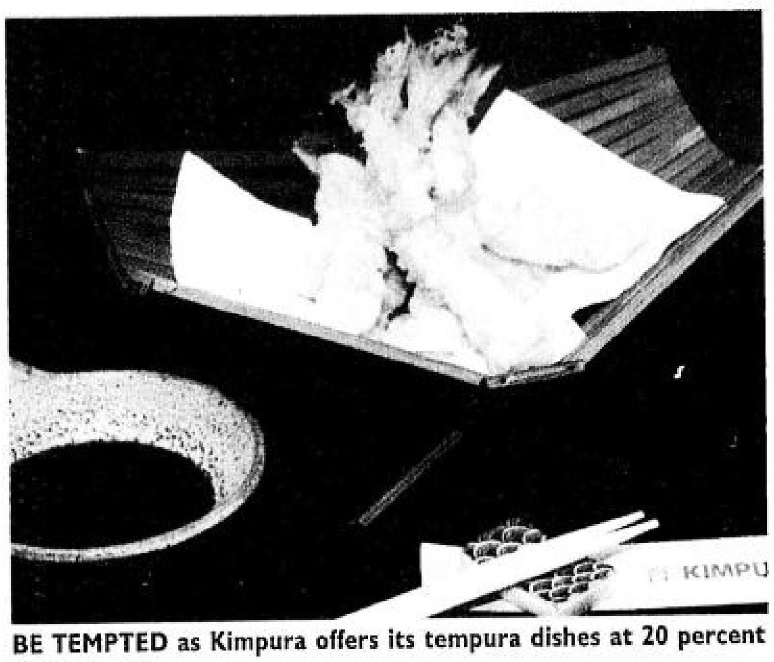
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MELANIE, 'WAG KANG MAG-FOCUS SA NEGATIVE!!! COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS AT MAKIKITA MO, LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL!!!
PERO, BLESSINGS MO ANG BIBILANGIN MO, HA?! HINDI BLESSINGS NG IBA!!!
ALE, MERON PO BA KAYONG NATANGGAP NA BLESSINGS SA BUHAY?!
MERON PO!!! 'YUN PONG SA PARI!!!
CHIONGLO

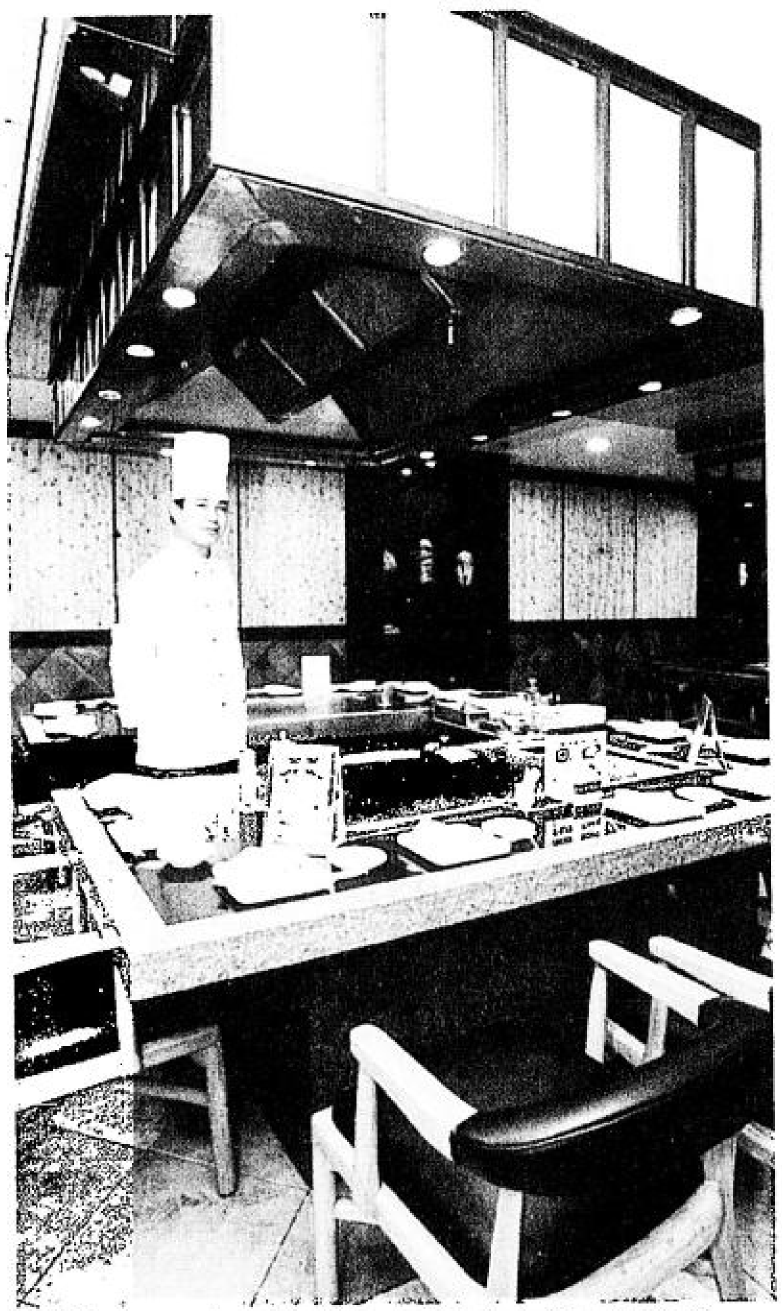
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


WOW!!! MGA ARTISTA!!!



BE TEMPTED as Kimpura offers its tempura dishes at 20 percent off for lunch.



HAVE a hearty dinner at Kimpura with their 20-percent off promo on teppanyaki.

Tempura, teppanyaki and 32 years of Kimpura

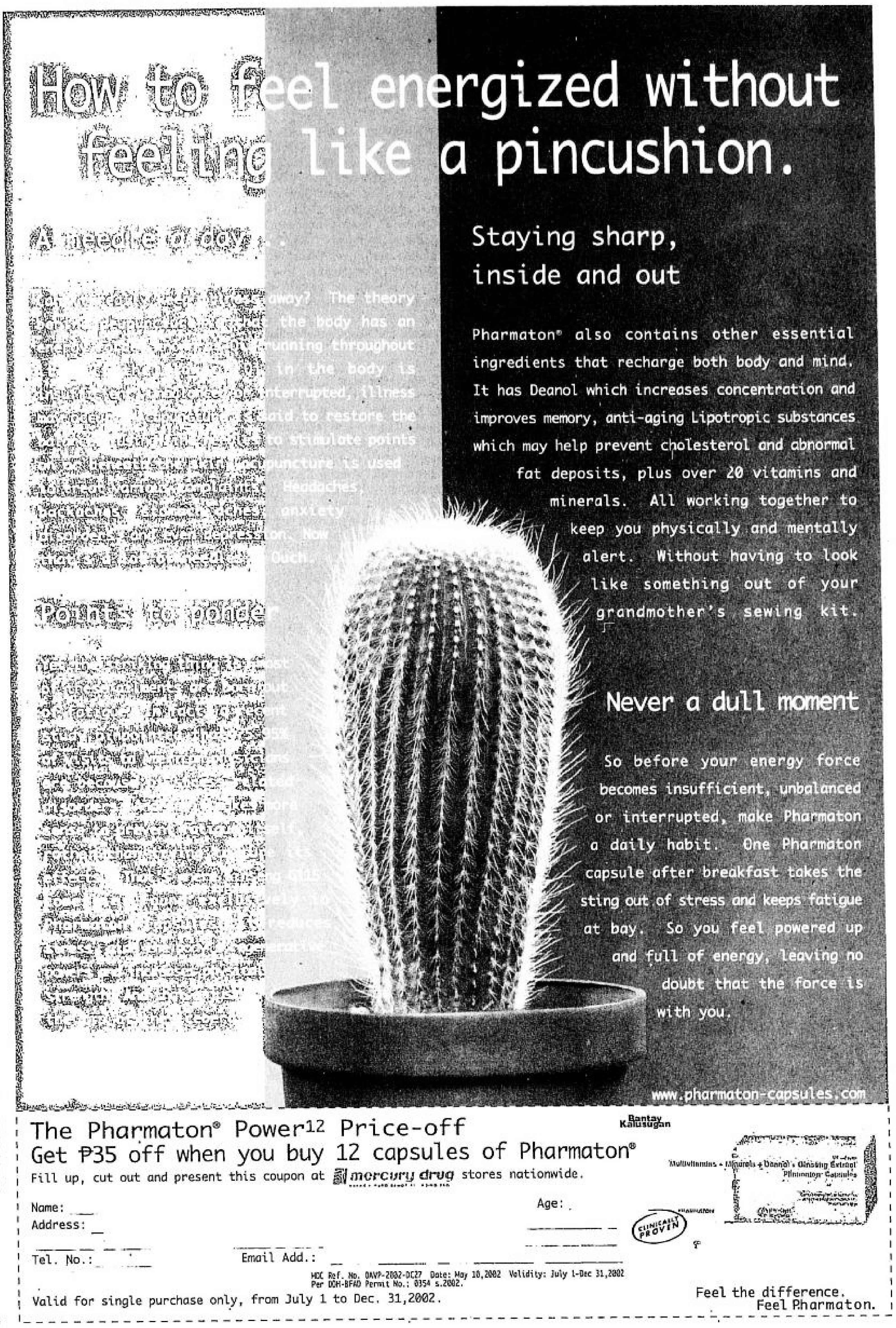
TO CELEBRATE its 32nd anniversary, Kimpura Japanese Restaurant is offering a back-to-back special treat—a delicious 20-percent discount on its tempura (lunch hours) and teppanyaki (dinner hours), exclusive to à la carte orders, until Oct. 31.

Since it opened on Oct. 10, 1970, Kimpura has been offering an array of tempting tempura (deep-fried dishes). Its teppanyaki section offers steaks, seafoods and vegetables cooked before your very eyes on the *misono* table, flavored with wine and special teppanyaki sauces.

That Japanese cuisine has become mainstream worldwide is a big factor. And Kimpura manages to keep up with the times, as attested by the ongoing renovation of its Glorietta 2 outlet (tels. 893-2307 and 892-4456).

Its design consultant, architect Wilfrid Nicholo Magcase, makes sure that diners still get to enjoy their meals while renovation is underway. Upon completion, Kimpura will have a neat and sleek ambience that is still distinctively Japanese.

Kimpura has another branch in Greenhills Shopping Center (beside Unimart), San Juan (tels. 721-8816 and 69).



How to feel energized without feeling like a pincushion.

A needle a day . . .

[illegible] away? The theory [illegible] the body has an [illegible] running throughout [illegible] in the body is [illegible] interrupted, illness [illegible] said to restore the [illegible] to stimulate points [illegible] puncture is used [illegible] Headaches, [illegible] anxiety [illegible] on. Now [illegible] Ouch.

Points to ponder

[illegible]

Staying sharp, inside and out

Pharmaton® also contains other essential ingredients that recharge both body and mind. It has Deanol which increases concentration and improves memory, anti-aging Lipotropic substances which may help prevent cholesterol and abnormal fat deposits, plus over 20 vitamins and minerals. All working together to keep you physically and mentally alert. Without having to look like something out of your grandmother's sewing kit.

Never a dull moment

So before your energy force becomes insufficient, unbalanced or interrupted, make Pharmaton a daily habit. One Pharmaton capsule after breakfast takes the sting out of stress and keeps fatigue at bay. So you feel powered up and full of energy, leaving no doubt that the force is with you.

www.pharmaton-capsules.com

The Pharmaton® Power12 Price-off
Get ₱35 off when you buy 12 capsules of Pharmaton®
Fill up, cut out and present this coupon at mercury drug stores nationwide.

Bantay Kalusugan

Name:
Address:
Tel. No.:
Email Add.:
Age:

CLINICALLY PROVEN

HDC Ref. No. DAVP-2002-DC27 Date: May 10,2002 Validity: July 1-Dec 31,2002
Per DOH-BFAD Permit No.: 0354 s.2002.

Valid for single purchase only, from July 1 to Dec. 31,2002.

Feel the difference.
Feel Pharmaton.

Kitchenware

bakeware and ovenware sale
October 1 - 31

Oblong
Rectangle
Sale 150.00 set of 3 Reg 299.75 Microwave-safe Oven to Table 3-pc Bakeware Set

Sale 200.00 Reg 299.75 a. Round 1.425 L (1.5 qt.) b. Oval 1.615 L (1.7 qt.)
Sale 290.00 Reg 419.75 c. Oval Baking Dish

Sale 145.00 Reg 209.75 a. Loaf Dish
Sale 190.00 Reg 279.75 a. Rectangular Baking Dish
Sale 160.00 Reg 229.75 c. Fluted Rectangular Baking Dish

Sale 80.00 Reg 99.75 a. Rectangular Biscuit Pan b. Non-stick Medium Cookie Pan
Sale 145.00 Reg 179.75 c. 12-cup Muffin Pan

Sale 40.00 Reg 49.75 a. Loaf Pan (small)
Sale 60.00 Reg 79.75 b. Pie Pan
Sale 65.00 Reg 79.75 c. Round Cake Pan d. Square Baking Pan

Microwave-safe Bake & Serve 15-pc Handcrafted Ovenware Set (includes basic baking tools)
Sale 250.00 set Reg 499.75

Specials 200.00 ea Kyowa Electric Hand Blenders

Non-stick Baker / Roaster Pans
Sale 95.00 Reg 119.75 Small
Sale 115.00 Reg 149.75 Large

We've got it all for you!
SM HOME WORLD

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3996 Series of 2002

QUIAPO • HOME CENTER MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU • DAVAO

Explore delightful caviar and the cuisines of Bulacan and Pampanga

SIZZLER Barbecue Restaurant launched its Sisig Fest promo with its 5 kinds of sisig—original pork, chicken, bangus, seafood and tuna

DINING OUT

HOLIDAY Inn Manila's Rotisserie explores the delights of caviar with its Colors of Caviar promotion. Diners can indulge in Yellow Hecht Caviar, Red Trout Caviar, White Keta Caviar and Beluga Caviar. Available for lunch, 12 nn-3 p.m., and dinner, 6:30-10:30 p.m. Meanwhile, Handaang Bulacan-Pampanga is ongoing until Oct. 19 at Café Coquilla. Savor dishes like Adobong Dumara, Stuffed Frog, Squid Relleno, Binagoongang Pata, Stuffed Prawns, Pinatong na Manok sa Gata, and desserts like Pastillas, Turrones de Casuy, Silvanas, Buko Pandan and Maja Blanca. Call Holiday Inn Manila at 526-1212 local 2318.

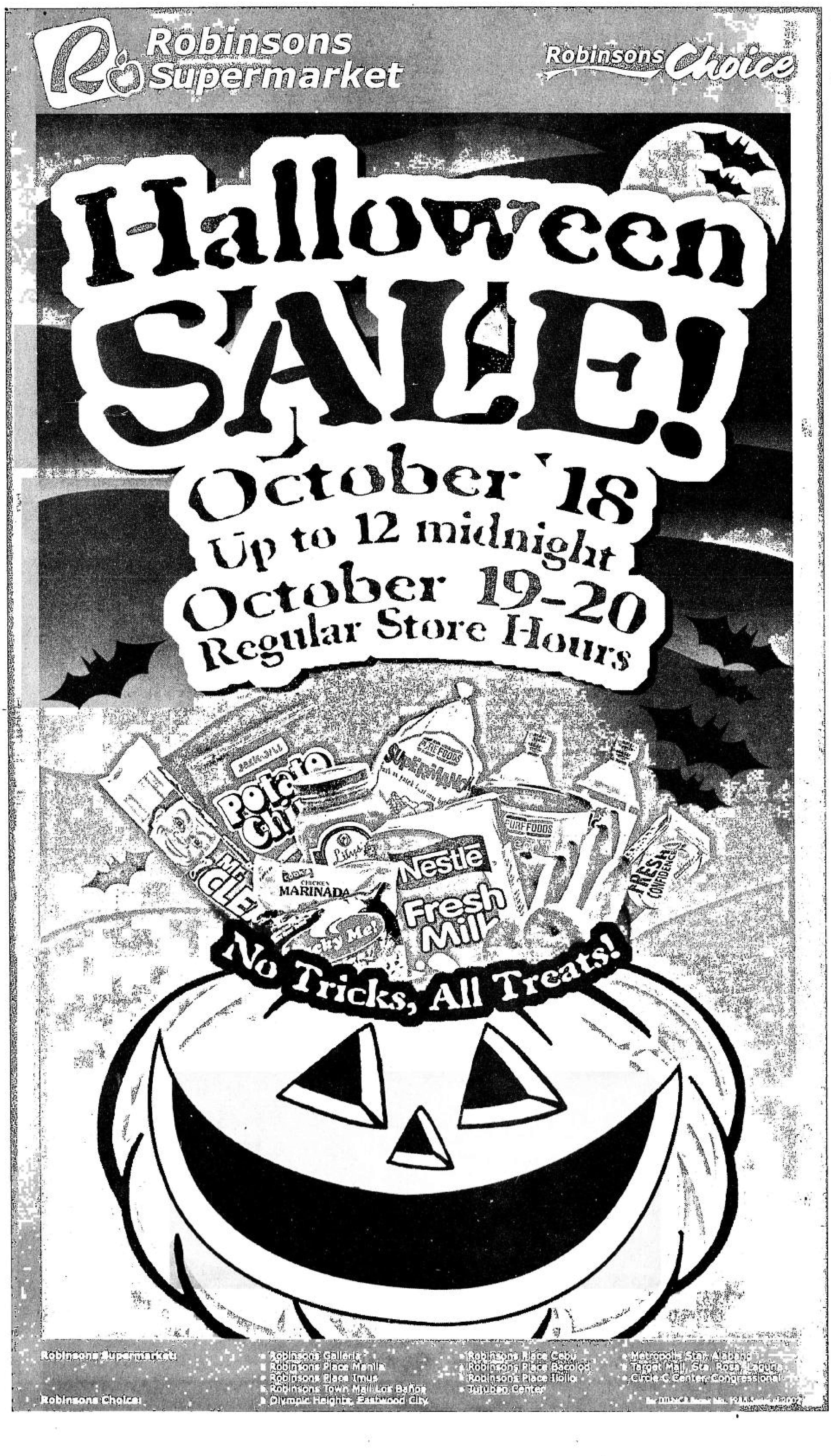
SIZZLER Barbecue Restaurant launched its Sizzig na sa Sizzler promo with 5 variations of sisig. The festival offers pork, chicken, bangus, seafood and tuna, all served with two cups of rice. The special sisig sauce makes the difference in enjoying this native dish. Sizzler Barbecue Restaurant is located at Greenhills Shopping Center and Glorietta 3, 2/L, Ayala Center, Makati.

PANCAKE House presents its latest promotion "Oh-so-delicious specials." Featured are new pork and fish dishes including classic Filipino favorites crispy belly, smoked golden *tinapa* served with steamed rice and mango salsa, fish rolls, fish *lumpia* also served with rice and mango salsa, almondigas soup and farmer's beef stew with garlic bread.

MANILA Midtown Hotel presents the International Food Festival until Oct. 27 at the Vogue Coffeeshop. The offerings include Eggplant Moussaka, Potato Gratinated with Cheese Fondue, Roast Leg Lamb on a Mediterranean Saffron Sauce, Roast Pork Fillet with Light Creamy Apple Sauce, Traditional Chicken Cordon Bleu with Wine Sauce, and Wok Fried Prawns Curry with Vegetable. Call 526-7001 local 6554.

UCC Coffee Vienna Café beefs up its menu with Chocolate Banana French Toast, ham-cheese omelette with Japanese salad, bacon and corned beef with Japanese salad and buttered toast. The café also serves Pinoy favorites like chicken *longanisa*, *tapa*, karne norte, *tocino* and boneless *bangus* served with garlic rice, eggs (poached or scrambled) or salted egg, and Japanese salad. All breakfast meals come free with your choice of UCC coffee, orange juice or hot cocoa. Savor UCC's original masterpieces like Japanese seafood soup spaghetti combines shrimps, New Zealand mussels, scallops and cuttlefish with your choice of tomato, white or curry sauces. There's also the salmon and spinach spaghetti in white sauce, unagi spaghetti and the seafood curry spaghetti. UCC Coffee Vienna Café is located at The Podium in Ortigas Center, Tomas Morato, QC, and Connecticut Street, Greenhills.

CELEBRATE the start of the weekend at Carpaccio's Ristorante Italiano with its "Sabato Pranzo" (Saturday lunch) special menu, featuring an all-you-can-eat "antipasti" appetizer buffet, a choice of three Italian entrées and a free glass of red or white wine or ice tea for just P490 (net per person). Stuff yourself with starters like pesce in carpione, carpaccio, insalata di mare fresco, prosciutto, mortadella, salami milano, fritata, marinated mushrooms, assorted salads, tomato and mozzarella, assorted olives, tapenade, aioli, breads and accompaniments. Call 843-7286 and 867-3164.



DON Anastacio de Alba and son, Chef Miguel

Month-long Spanish fiesta

ALBA Restaurante Español with Instituto Cervantes is holding a Spanish Regional Food Festival until Oct. 30 in celebration of Fiestal 2002 Spanish Festival for Culture and the Arts. This feast of tastes is offered buffet-style during lunch and is available daily for only P350+.

The festival launching at Alba's Makati was graced by Tomas Rodriguez Pantoja, ambassador of Spain.

Galicia y Asturias will be featured until Oct. 22. Enjoy servings of Vierras à la Tigre, Pulpo à la Gallega, Embutidos y Tortilla Española, Caldo Gallego, Ensalada Asturiana, Lengua Estofada à la Orense, Fabada Asturiana, Pollo à la Asturiana, Pescado à la Sitra, Fideos con Almejas, Berenjenas al Homo, Paella de Pato and Cochinillo al Homo. Alba's makes its own *morcilla* for its *fabada*.

Festival Mediterraneo is on Oct. 23-30. Among the featured dishes are the Butifarra con setas à la Parilla, Callos à la Andaluza, Pato à la Sevillana, Langostinos con Romesco, Solomillo Asado Cordoves, Canalones Catalana, Menestra de Verduras Murciaba and Paella Alicantina.

Alba Restaurante Español's branches are at 38 Polaris St., Bel-Air, Makati City (tel. 896-6950/51) and on Tomas Morato corner Scout Lozano, QC (tel. 925-1912, 411-7052 and 928-7129). Soon to open is Alba Restaurant in One Luna Lifestyle Center, Eastwood, Libis, QC.

PESCADO à la Sitra

ARROZ con Leche

PATO à la Sevillana

MOTORING

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Fuel economy run for AUV makers set

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE ASIAN utility vehicle (AUV) manufacturers may be in for a different challenge. It won't be a test of sales performance that will matter this time but the most energy-efficient vehicle among the AUVs in the country. It will be a test for the best fuel mileage or efficiency in a safe and normal driving condition on the national road or expressway.

The AUV fuel economy run 2002, organized by the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency Division, is open to car manufacturers with AUV models. It is set for November—the clean air month—to promote fuel economy consciousness and consumer empowerment through a fuel consumption mileage run for AUVs. The rules and regulations will be finalized tomorrow, Friday.

There will be a minimum of two models for each participant and two vehicles for each model. And strictly no performance modifications of any type will be allowed, folks. The engine must not be altered for make and model of vehicle being used. All vehicles must be insured.

Commercial vehicle

AUV is defined as a commercial vehicle that is originally Philippine-designed or similarly designed low-cost vehicles with a higher local content than light commercial vehicles and with a gross volume weight (GVW) of up to three tons.

The competition will start at the Department of Energy gate at the Fort Bonifacio and will end at the Petron filling station in Calatagan.

All registered AUVs will proceed to the Petron gas station in Barrio Ugong, Pasig, two days before the event for their changing of engine oil. Only one type of engine oil will be used. A location will be designated at the DOE premises for registered AUVs to park their vehicles. All AUVs parked at the DOE premises will be secured and locked. The car keys will be kept by the car keeper.

Each passenger or navigator will be issued a road book that will contain the rules, route, stops and turns and all pertinent information.

Some rules

Some of the rules indicate that the economy run route shall be of a distance long enough to ensure accurate estimates of fuel mileage. A standard distance, which will represent the total distance driven on the economy run route shall be used in computing all fuel mileage consumption. (The distance is set to be specified in the road book.)

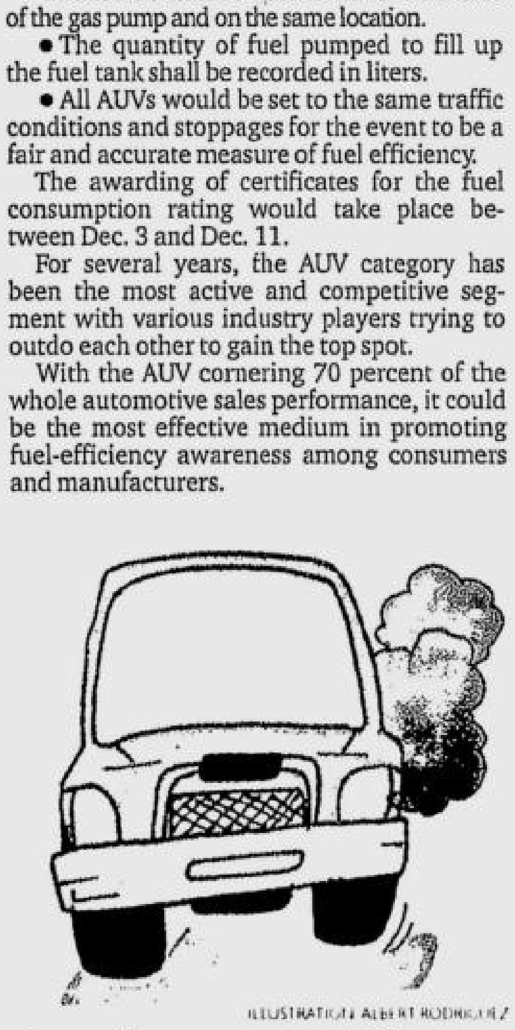
The rules set to determine fuel mileage include the following:

- All participating AUVs shall have the same start-off point and finish point.
- The fuel tank shall be filled to the brim at the start and at the finish point for registered entry AUVs.
- Only Petron unleaded with identical octane rating and diesel shall be used for gasoline and diesel engines, respectively.
- To ensure a consistent fill-up level for each AUV, only one person shall top off all AUVs to the same level.
- Organizers will allow only one fuel pump to be used.
- Each AUV shall be filled from the same side of the gas pump and on the same location.
- The quantity of fuel pumped to fill up the fuel tank shall be recorded in liters.
- All AUVs would be set to the same traffic conditions and stoppages for the event to be a fair and accurate measure of fuel efficiency.

The awarding of certificates for the fuel consumption rating would take place between Dec. 3 and Dec. 11.

For several years, the AUV category has been the most active and competitive segment with various industry players trying to outdo each other to gain the top spot.

With the AUV cornering 70 percent of the whole automotive sales performance, it could be the most effective medium in promoting fuel-efficiency awareness among consumers and manufacturers.



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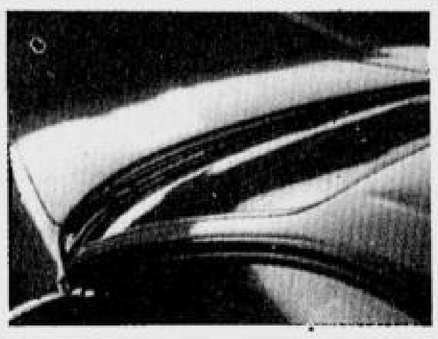

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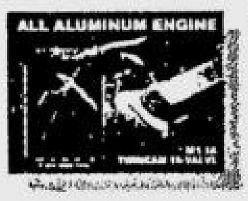

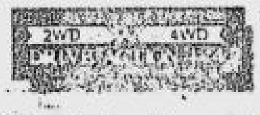

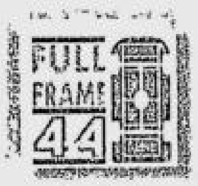

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SUZUKI

Ford Expedition takes on a new appearance

By Charles E. Buban

FORD in the Philippines unveils its 2002 Expedition Limited edition, the latest variant in its full-size line of sport utility vehicles.

The new Limited edition has a sporty look yet maintaining its premium appearance.

Only 50 Expedition units will be equipped with this Limited edition features, according to Maricar Cristobal-Parco of Ford Group Philippines during last week's launch in Ford Balintawak.

"The Limited edition is equipped with an exclusive package including 17-inch, 10-spoke aluminum wheels, illuminated running boards, rear spoiler, differently designed headlamps and fog lamps, and comes in an exclusive Arizona beige color," Parco said during the presentation.

Interior additions

Passengers of the Expedition Limited will surely appreciate the 5-inch video monitors mounted on the two front headrests, a 10-disc multiregion DVD/VCD/CD system and premium two-tone leather power seats.

The 2002 Ford Expedition Limited is powered by a 4.6L V8 Triton engine capable of generating 232 Bhp at 3,450 rpm.

The 2002 Ford Expedition Limited carries a price tag of P1.988 million.

"Ford Expedition is currently the best-selling full-size SUV and has been a top-seller since it was introduced in the country in 1998," said Parco.

Top seller

According to the recent report issued by the Truck Manufacturers Association, Ford leads in the light truck category vehicle sales from January to September with 46.70 percent share.

"We expect the Expedition to continue its leadership by offering the functionality, safety, security and comfort that full-size SUV customers demand and have come to expect from a Ford SUV," said Parco.

This October, Ford dealerships nationwide in cooperation with Ford Credit, will offer the Expedition at zero-interest for 24 months. This means you only have to pay P37,084 a month for a 24-month term. Other financing terms are also available from Ford Credit such as low monthly payment of only P19,622 for 60 months or down payment as low as P356,000.

Special packages await cash buyers so visit any of the 12 dealerships nationwide located in Alabang, Balintawak, Edsa, Libis, Makati, Quezon Avenue, Bacolod, Cabanatuan, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo and Pampanga.

Honda here to stay

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

IMAGINE a car company based in the Philippines earning $65 million annually. You think that's achievable?

Yes, that is if you ask Honda's senior managing director Katsuro Suzuki.

With the inauguration recently of the Honda transmission plant inside the Laguna Technopark in Biñan, Laguna, a major breakthrough has been achieved in the motoring industry. No less than President Macapagal-Arroyo was the guest of honor during the historic rites.

* * *

Assisted by Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas and Export Processing Zone Authority (Epza) director general Lilia de Lima, the President broke ground for the official launch of the P1-billion state-of-the-art edifice that will now become the benchmark of Honda residency in the Philippines.

I applaud Honda's move, which is truly a giant step toward the future.

The new facility is part of Honda Motor's commitment to the local automotive industry. It is an offshoot of a pledge given to President Macapagal during the President's visit to Japan on May 21. In her speech in Tokyo, the President urged the Japanese automotive giants to set up investments in the Philippines.

* * *

If Honda's response is not a firm belief to the leadership of Gloria, what is?

The new Honda facility will not only benefit the Philippines. It will become the supply base of manual transmissions for Honda factories from Asia all the way to the United States and Europe.

Yes, the Filipino can.

* * *

What's really good about the new Honda facility is not just the revenues it will bring to the country. It will also tremendously help lick the nation's unemployment problem.

I remember what Otaka-san said when he announced he was moving on to Malaysia after his three-year duty in the Philippines.

"My farewell wish," said Otaka-san, "is to see the country's unemployment problem in the Philippines reduced to the lowest of levels."

* * *

Suzuki echoed Otaka's wish in his speech to inaugurate the billion-peso Honda facility in Biñan, Laguna.

Said Suzuki: "We have made a significant venture to build a large, state-of-the-art manufacturing facility that will create employment opportunities and involve a major transfer of technology to support the long-term development of the Philippine automotive industry."

What was extremely significant was with the establishment of the new Honda facility, Honda will uproot its manual transmission plant in Japan and install it in the Philippines.

* * *

The transfer will already entail a fortune. Initially, Honda will invest at least two billion yen to produce 140,000 units a year and, in the process, generate over 200 jobs.

When the facility is finally in full operation, Honda expects to generate "65 million US dollars annually and help boost the country's GDP." Add to that Suzuki's reiteration of Honda's strong intention to export Philippine-made vehicles to the Asean countries. Said Suzuki: "The setting up of the transmission plant is an initial step toward the export of CBUs."

I can't think of any grander prospect than that.

* * *

My laptop got flooded with e-mail regarding that piece a while back on the Toyota-Nissan agreement on the development of hybrid vehicles. Even as I am here in Busan, South Korea, covering the Asian Games, the magic of information technology has kept me informed of what's happening in the world—through my laptop.

In answer to one query, Toyota will start installing Toyota's hybrid system on Nissan in 2006.

It wouldn't be earlier than that because the hybrid system will be based on a system under development at present by Toyota; it is not yet up in the market as it needs a thorough study by the car company's top engineers.

* * *

One asked why the sale of the hybrid system will start only in 2006.

Toyota said it targeted 2006 to be the perfect year to start selling the new hybrid system. It said it will only be sold in the United States because research showed Americans are receptive to the hybrid system as strongly indicated by the Prius' sales status in the United States.

* * *

QUOTE ME. When cars are finally flown, will there be air traffic?

1929 Ford Model A wins Best in Show

By Jun Alano

A RARE and vintage 1929 Ford Model A bested several other classic beauties as well as some modern entries to capture the plum "Best in Show" award in the recently concluded Motorshow International's auto competitions.

An entry of GenSpeed Painting Technology, the 1929 Ford Model A captured the top honors in the Best Vintage (prewar) category, and then went on to win the Best in Paint and Best in Interior to emerge as the overall Best in Show winner in Motorshow's 2002 edition.

Marisa Nallana, Motorshow's director general, said the Ford Model A was produced after the breakthrough Ford Model T, the first-ever automobile to have been produced in big numbers at Henry Ford's production line in Michigan in the early '20s.

The auto competition is one of the highlights of Motorshow, the country's premier auto and cycle exhibition that held its 13th season from Oct. 2 to 6 at the World Trade Center on Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

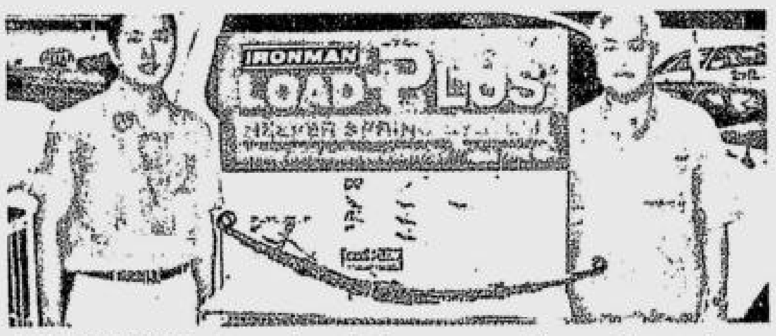
Other big winners in this year's Motorshow include a 2002 Honda Civic SiR from Reibet Auto Shoppe, which won the Best in Engine display and a 2002 Honda Civic SiR also from Reibet Auto Shoppe, which won the Auto Display of the Year.

The Dream Car of the Year/People's Choice Award went to a 2001 model Honda Civic SiR from Auto Local, which was selected by visitors and guests who went to the five-day exhibit.

The Most Collectible Car Award was won by a 1953 Mercedes-Benz Adenauer of Greg Ching, which also copped third place in the Best Vintage (postwar) category.

The complete list of winners:

- Light Multipurpose (utility) category: 1st prize, 1997 Chevy Suburvan from Cash Motors; 2nd prize, 2001 Ford Expedition from Paints and Body Works; 3rd prize, 1997 Ford F-150 from Vitesse Auto Performance
- Light Multipurpose (locally assembled): 1st prize, AMC Hammer wagon from Alana Motors; 2nd prize, AMC Hammer pickup from Alana Motors
- Best Sedan (stock category): 2003 Volkswagen from Hans Auto Car Center
- Best Sedan (light modification): 1995 Honda Civic Esi from Paint Tricks Autobody, 1st prize; 2002 Toyota Altis from Goodrich Car Accessories, 2nd prize
- Best Sedan (medium modification): 1993 Toyota Corona, Hannah Auto Center, 1st place; 2001 Toyota Altis, Auto Innovation, 2nd place
- Best Sedan (heavy modification): 2001 Honda Civic, Reibet Auto Shoppe, 1st place; 1986 Mercedes-Benz, Aldous Paint and Bodyworks, 2nd; Honda Civic SiR, Paint & Body Works, 3rd place
- Best Sports Car: 1973 Toyota Sprinter, MLM Car Restoration, 1st place; 1995 Toyota Starlet, GenSpeed Painting Technology, runner-up
- Best Fun and Recreational Vehicle: 1997 Volkswagen Dune Buggy, Han Cars Auto Center
- Best Vintage, postwar category: 1995 Chevrolet Hard Top of Cirilo "Boy" de Leon, 1st place; 1958 Mercedes-Benz 220S, Lambert Ablaza, 2nd place



ALL-INCLUSIVE sales and marketing manager Timmy Chua and president Wilson Chua pose with the Ironman Load Plus helper spring kit.

Load Plus helper spring kit system launched today

A REVOLUTIONARY new Australian-made product, Ironman Load Plus Helper Spring Kit System will be launched today at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Adriatico, Manila. It is a unique patented suspension system engineered to dramatically improve vehicle stability and handling while carrying the vehicle's rated payload.

Load Plus Helper Springs are ideally suited to carry both occasional and permanent loads allowing vehicle owners maximum return on their vehicle. This is achieved through carrying more load more safely. Ironman Load Plus reduces rear-end sag and body roll, improves fuel economy and braking efficiency and minimizes abnormal tire wear.

Today's launch will also include an actual product demonstration at the Quirino Grandstand to prove the effectivity of Ironman Load Plus. An Australian professional driver will maneuver a pair of utility vans, pickups and 4x4 SUVs, one example without and the other with the Load Plus product installed. The vehicles will negotiate a slalom course specially designed to exhibit the advantages of having Load Plus installed in your vehicle.

Invited guests and the press will also be requested for a test ride so they can experience the product's inherent capabilities.

Made by JSW Parts, Australia's leading spring and suspension company has been designing and supplying automotive springs and suspension parts for pickups, SUVs, trucks and utility vehicles for over 50 years. JSW is also equipment manufacturer (OEM) for DaimlerChrysler, Mack trucks and Volvo.

All-Inclusive Sales Inc. (AIS), a leading marketer of motor vehicle components in the Philippines, exclusively distributes Ironman Load Plus. The company was established in 1978 to concentrate in mass distribution of automotive parts nationwide. To date, the company is the exclusive agent for Bendix Brake Products, Splitfire Performance Products, Paraut OEM Products and FCC Clutches. It also carries products from Federal Mogul, NGK Spark Plugs, Daikin Exedy Clutches, NWB Wiper Blades, NPR and TP Piston Rings and Tokico Shock Absorbers.

Mild Seven brings back F1 fever to Manila

ON NOV. 9, Mild Seven is bringing back the Formula One fever as its R202, the model used in the 2002 season, makes it way to the Philippines with XLR8—the Mild Seven F1 experience.

Highlighting the day's event is the presence of Jenson Button from the Mild Seven-Renault F1 Team and a chance to win in the raffle that can take an F1 enthusiast and his friend to Sepang, Malaysia, to experience the 2003 Formula One season.

From Melbourne to Suzuka, to Indianapolis and back to Manila, the racing fever has afflicted fans from all over the globe. With tachometer readings reaching well over 350 kilometers per hour, the blinding speeds in Formula One racing have not only become a testimony to a driver's technique and skill, but a masterful show of engineering excellence as well. The world of Formula One is chic and glamorous, part-sport, part-circus—it's the pinnacle of motor racing.

On Nov. 9, a whirlwind of blue and yellow will definitely be on its way to The Fort at Bonifacio Global City to give Filipino racing aficionados the thrill of a lifetime as Mild Seven is bringing the biggest F1 show Manila has ever seen.

Mild Seven has long been a title sponsor of the Formula One racing arena. Already in its eight consecutive season as title sponsor with the Renault F1 Team, they now hold the record for the longest consecutive title sponsorship program among today's F1 sponsors, thus echoing the brand's long-standing commitment to excellence.

Moreover, Mild Seven also has been one of the pioneers in bringing the F1 racing experience to the Philippines. The Mild Seven Speed Show held last year at Eastwood City Walk, Libis, offered racing fans a glimpse at the world of Formula One. A motorcade of high-performance cars announced the arrival of the sleek and stunning Mild Seven-Benetton-Renault F1 car. At Eastwood City Walk, guests reveled at the actual racing car used in the prestigious tracks of Monte Carlo, Monza and other racing locations. While donning the deep blue driver's uniform and clutching the autographed racing helmets, they posed beside the F1 car for a date with fantasy.

LAST year's Mild Seven Speed Show was witness to the Mild Seven Benetton-Renault F1 car B201.

A remarkable turnout of Formula One fans at Eastwood City Walk proved that the Mild Seven Speed Show truly was a resounding success—a success that needed to be replicated.

Worldwide, Formula One is the most watched sporting event after the World Cup and the Olympics. The current F1 season is a revelation of sorts for Mild Seven. It has been a year of "building and learning, honing the technology and getting the team to gel," according to the testimony of the members of the Mild Seven-Renault F1 team.

As of recent standings, the team has finished fourth in the Constructor's Cup and seventh and eighth in the Driver's Cup—a strong finish indeed, behind only the "big three" of Formula One racing—Ferrari, Williams and McClaren-Mercedes. The team drivers Jenson Button and Jarno Trulli have been scoring points in most of the grand prix races this season.

The Filipino F1 fan can take part in the Mild Seven-Renault team's rise to the top. On Nov. 9, Mild Seven is bringing back the thrills as the R202 racing car used in the 2002 season, makes its way to the Philippines with XLR8—the Mild Seven F1 Experience. To be held at the Fort at Bonifacio Global City, this event promises to be even better than last year's, as exhilarating activities are lined up for Filipino racing fans.

At XLR8—The Mild Seven F1 Experience, would-be drivers will get a chance to show off their speed, quick reflexes, physical strength and race know-how at Racer's Edge, the simulated driver's training program that whets the skills needed to become a successful Formula One Speedster. Included in the Racer's Edge are remote-controlled cars, slots cars, Play Station 2 games, mini golf, wall-climbing and more exciting activities. Participants will then have the chance to show off their driving skills at the Go-Kart tracks.

A certified Formula One master will give fans insider tips and key facts on the world of F1. Guests will once again have the chance to fulfill their ultimate photo fantasy as they can don the driver's suit and pose beside the sleek engineering wonder that is the R202.

Adding to the list of happenings is the participation of Mild Seven Renault F1 driver Button on almost all the events.

Button will also draw the winner of the ongoing promo of Mild Seven, where the grand prize can send one lucky person and a friend to Sepang, Malaysia, to experience the 2003 Formula One season.

ISUZU ECONOMY RUN

Going farther with fuel efficiency

By Charles E. Buban

IT WAS a fairly simple competition: fill the vehicles with equal amounts of diesel fuel, get them going on the same route and by the end of the journey, see who got more fuel left in their tank.

It wasn't your usual kind of race, and if you think it was something that would bore you to sleep think again. The 2002 Isuzu Fuel Economy Challenge was all about strategy—implementing concept to actual application.

"Here you don't drive too slow, or too fast. It tests your driving skills as well as your knowledge of the vehicle you're driving. It makes one conscious of how precious each drop of fuel is to winning this race," says Isuzu Philippines EVP Hiroshi Ishino.

The Isuzu slogan "Go Further" took on a whole new meaning last week when the Japanese carmaker held its second eco-drive challenge from Isuzu Alabang in Muntinlupa City to White Cove Resort in Nasugbu, Batangas, an 89.6-km run participated in by 46 Isuzu vehicles.

Record run

The race ended with a new record: Vehicle 45, a manually driven Isuzu Crosswind, skippered by Dino Directo of the Manila Standard and navigated by Giby Yalung of the Manila Times, reached the finish line having sipped only 2.456 liters of diesel for 36.482 km. for every liter consumed.

Vehicle 45 bested the mark set by an Isuzu Fuego pick-up in 2000 that recorded 25 km. per liter consumed traveling from Tabang, Bulacan to Subic in Zambales.

"It was a different route but the objective of our eco-drive challenge was to put these vehicles out on ordinary road conditions. Each participant had to deal with traffic, varied road terrains and whatever weather came to them. Ordinary motorists could easily relate to what our participants has encountered," explains Ishino.

Ishino adds that Isuzu Philippines would like to show its customers that fuel economy is very much possible on its vehicles. "We didn't modify the vehicles—just the same ones our customers would be driving everyday."

Since the amount of fuel consumed differs on each vehicle make, the 2002 Isuzu Fuel Economy Challenge divided the participants into four groups: one for the manual Isuzu Crosswind and another for its automatic variant, one for the manual Isuzu Fuego pick-up and one for the Isuzu Trooper with automatic transmission.

Helpful tips

After the race participants were more than glad to share some of their secrets.

There were other technical factors to consider in fuel economy runs: the coefficient of drag, which is an indicator of how aerodynamic a vehicle is due only to its shape; the frontal area, which depends on the size of the vehicle so big SUVs have more than double the frontal area of some small cars; and then weight, which affects the amount of drag the tires put on the vehicle.

"The type of engine also spells a lot in the way your vehicle uses up its fuel. Isuzu is a leading diesel maker and pioneer in diesel technology in the world," says Ishino. "Our direct-injection diesel engine has an outstanding horsepower and torque and is fuel-efficient, so environmentally, its impact is minimum."

For Directo, the 2002 Isuzu Fuel Economy Challenge gives a different kind of satisfaction. Unlike the drag races he used to compete in, the eco-drive let the conservationist side of him manifest itself. "We know how precious fuels are and to join in this type of competition gives others ideas on how one can be responsible in their own little way."

Why save on fuel?

NATURE took more than 200 million years to form all of the oil beneath the surface of the earth. Ironically, man has just taken 200 years to consume half of that reserve. In fact, scientists estimate that if current rates of consumption were to continue, Earth's remaining resources of conventional oil would be used up in 40 years.

"Of course we still have coal and other sources of fossil fuels such as natural gas but they are either too environmentally harmful or too expensive to mine and use," explains Isuzu Philippines EVP Hiroshi Ishino. "So the most practical thing to do is look for alternative sources of energy or to use efficiently what we use at the moment."

Indeed, it makes sense to use fossil resources such as oil more efficiently to reduce environmental impacts and buy time to develop new and [illegible]

"Since two thirds of the oil we consume is used to [illegible] vehicles, and half of this goes to passenger cars and light trucks, it helps if we choose a vehicle with the best fuel economy rating," suggests Ishino.

Ishino suggests shopping around and [illegible] consider Isuzu's Direct Fuel-Injected [illegible] Turbo SOHC diesel engine which [illegible]

ISUZU Philippines EVP Hiroshi Ishino on the run during the recent Eco-Challenge fuel economy [illegible] should always go hand in hand with driving pleasure.

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- SIDE STEP BOARD
- FENDER FLARES
- REAR CANVASS SPARE TIRE COVER
- ROOF RAIL

* Verified by Angelo Ocampo, Exec. Director, Consumer Union of the Philippines, Homer Maranan Exec. Secretary, CAMPI, Ariel Manresa DOTC Chief, Road Transport Planning Division, Jo Jayson Alcaraz, Vice Mayor of Muntinlupa

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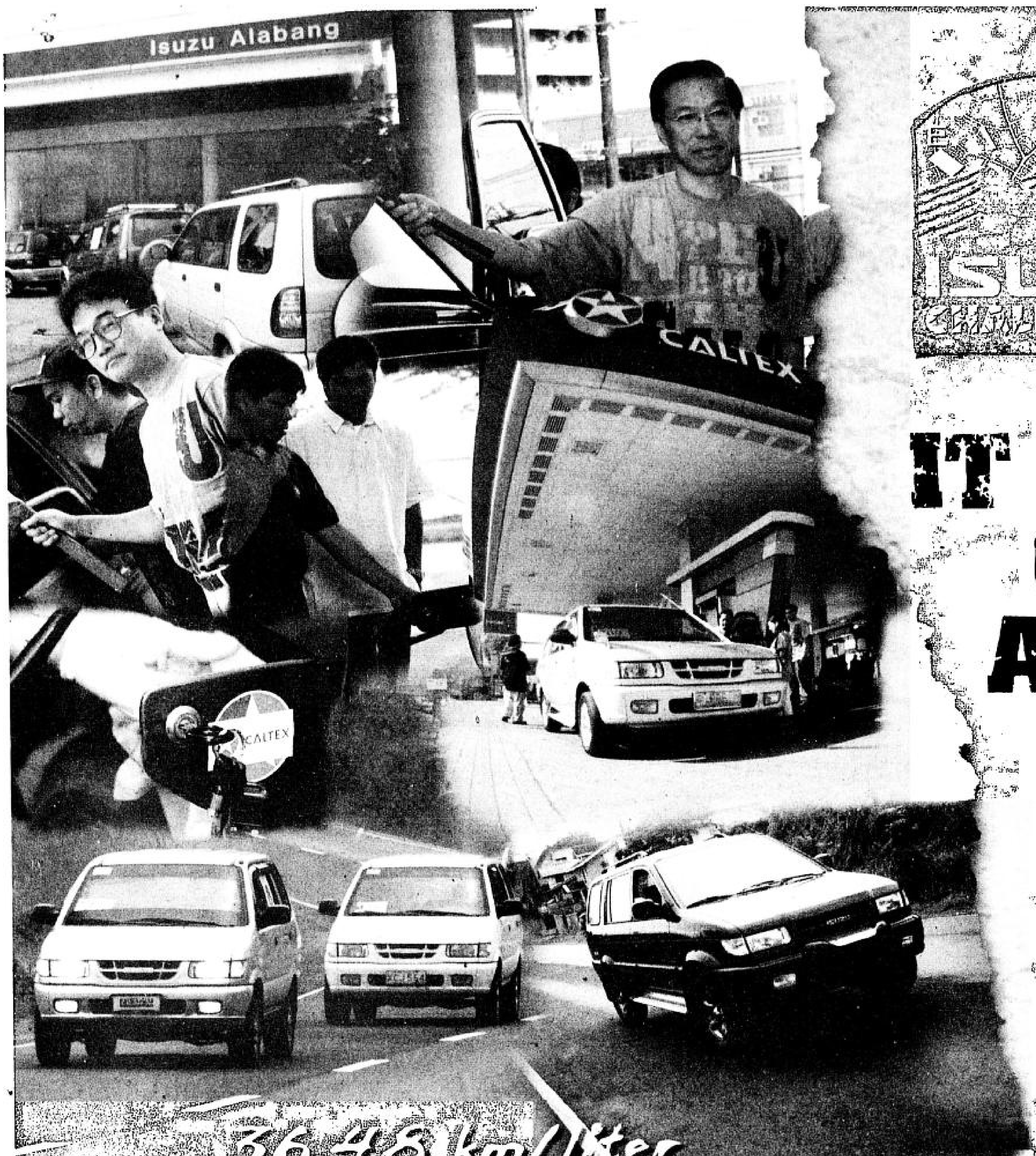

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This year's Isuzu e-drive competition and e
the previous fuel efficiency records shattere
participants relishing their moments in th
were at an all time high with the Cross
km/liter, followed by Fuego with 33.18 k
km/liter and the Crosswind A/T with 26.

From the flag off point in Isuzu Alaba
motoring journalists drove their Fueg
across steep roads, back roads an
Cove in Nasugbu, Batangas to expe
of man and machine. Teams rallied
abilities to come out on top. And
where their skill, stamina, enduran
tested in the Flag Capture, Kayakin
Biking and Beach Volleyball, e
champions. Displaying
unselfishness, they learned t
but more importantly ha
challenges with new fou
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Thanks to Isuzu, each p
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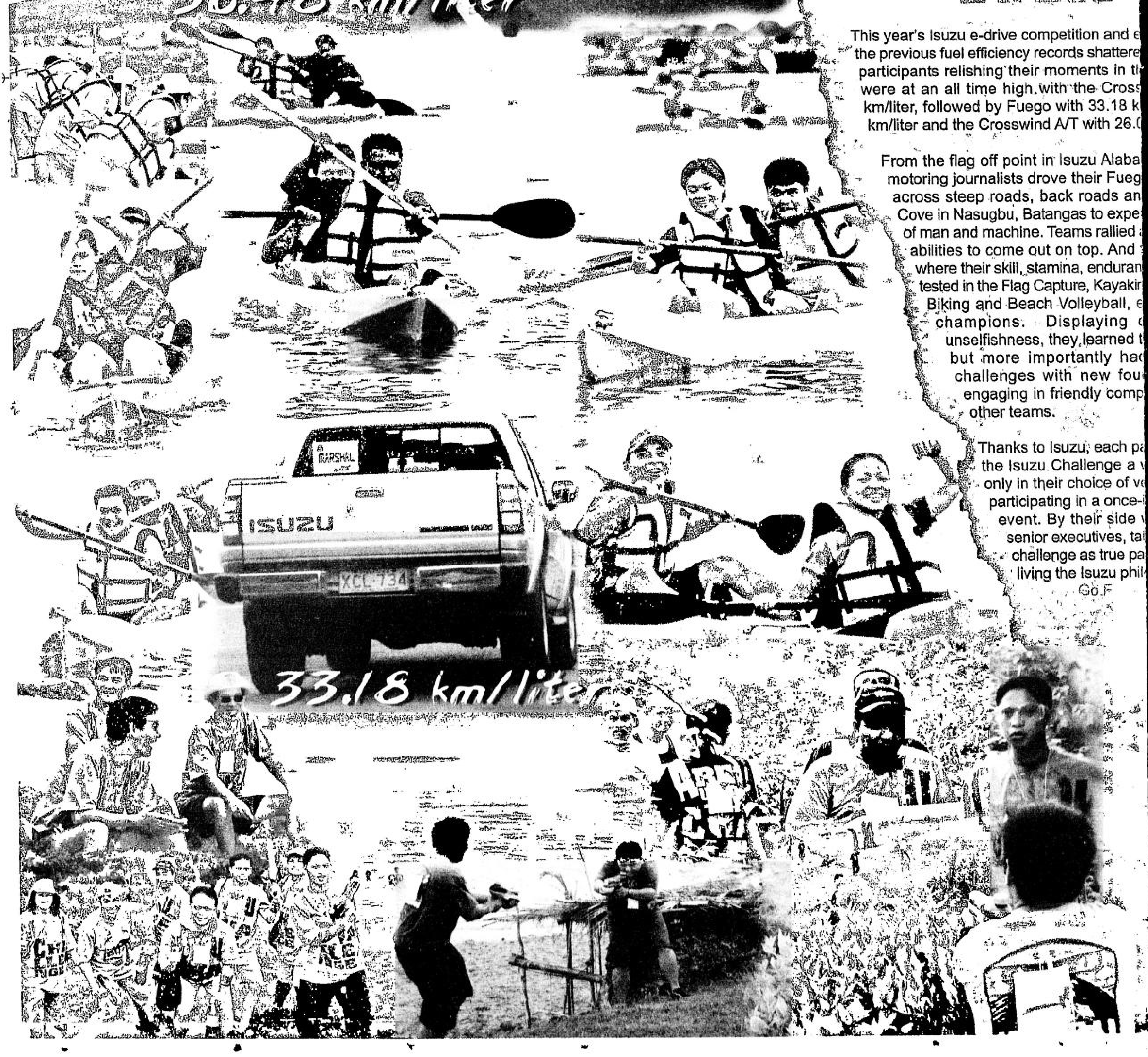

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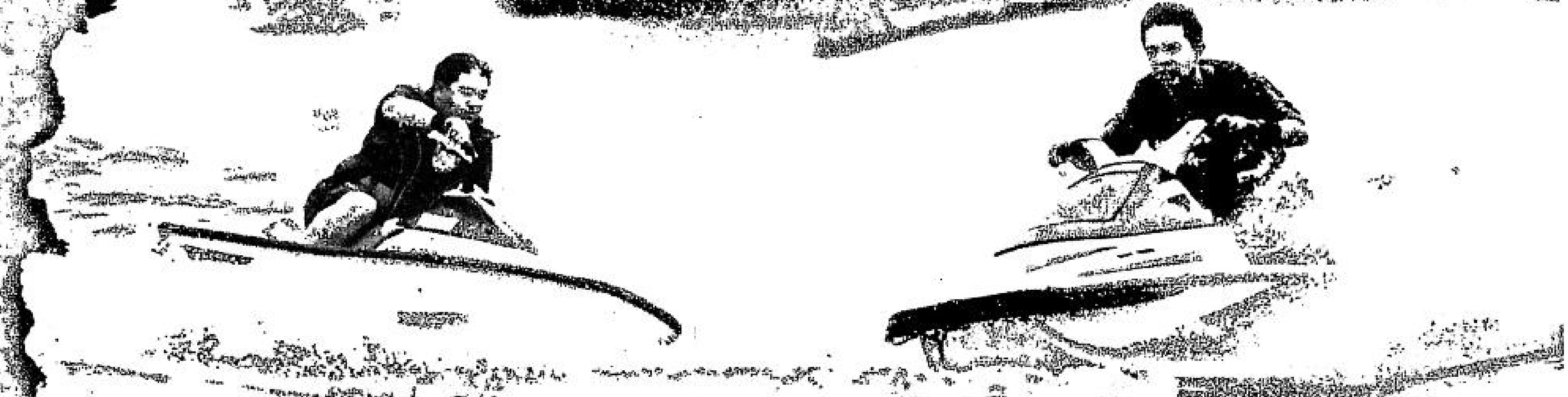
xtreme outdoor challenge saw d and 98 exhausted but fulfilled e sun. Fuel efficiency ratings wind M/T leading with 36.48 m/liter, the Trooper with 30.82 1 km/liter.

ng, Isuzu vehicle owners and os, Crosswinds and Troopers d traffic-tight roads to White rience the ultimate challenge all their physical and mental hroughout the afternoon ce, and team spirit were g, Jet Skiing, Mountain ach team came out camaraderie and o work as a team, l fun doing the nd friends and etition against

articipant left vinner—not ehicle but in n-a-lifetime were Isuzu king on the rtners and osophy to



CROSSWIND M/T	DINO DIRECTO GIBY YALUNG	36.48 KM/LITER
CROSSWIND A/T	VERNON SARNE JEFF REYES	26.01 KM/LITER
FUEGO CLASS	CARLOS DE GUZMAN ROMEO DE GUZMAN	33.19 KM/LITER
TROOPER CLASS	WILFREDO DE LUNA JOEL PAPA	30.82 KM/LITER

30.82 km/liter

More mileage, fewer gas ups

By Charles E. Buban

THE 2002 Isuzu Fuel Economy Challenge is not about driving at a turtle's pace just to save on fuel. It's also not about getting its participants into smaller, lighter, more aerodynamic cars just to get the best mileage at higher speeds.

"We're more realistic so we have chosen frequently traveled routes as our race track and Asian utility vehicles, pick-ups and sport utility vehicles as vehicle participants since they are much preferred by Filipinos nowadays. We put our vehicles to test," says Isuzu Philippines EVP Hiroshi Ishino.

The participants have their own theories on how to get their vehicles going without consuming too much fuel. Prominent among these is what they call the "sweet spot" on their speeder.

Simply put, if you drive your vehicle in the "sweet spot" you will get the best possible mileage for that vehicle. If you go faster or slower, the mileage will not be as good, but the closer you drive to the sweet spot the better mileage you will get.

So, for most vehicles, especially cars, the "sweet spot" on the speedometer is in the range of 60-95 kph. Vehicles with a higher road load like AUVs, pick-ups and SUVs will reach the sweet spot at a lower speed of 60 to 70 kph.

Other helpful tips

"You can greatly improve your mileage by having your vehicle serviced regularly and by driving wisely," suggests Ishino. "That's why poorly maintained or dilapidated engines cost you more on fuel, and besides they produce more pollution."

And practicing any of these techniques can help improve your mileage:

- Go easy on the brakes and gas pedal. Avoid "jackrabbit" starts.
- Avoid long idles. Turn off the engine if you anticipate a lengthy wait.
- Avoid carrying unneeded items in the trunk. Extra weight decreases fuel mileage.
- Avoid high speeds. Your "sweet spot" can improve your fuel mileage about 15 percent.
- Use your air conditioning only when necessary.
- Use overdrive. If your car is equipped with overdrive gearing (on 5-speed manual transmissions and 4-speed automatic transmissions), be sure to make use of the overdrive gear as soon as your speed is high enough.
- Keep tires properly inflated and aligned.
- Get regular engine tune-ups and car maintenance checks. Tune-ups improve performance as well as fuel mileage.

And if you're about to buy a vehicle, it helps if you consider first your needs. Get only the options you really need. Larger engines and higher horsepower typically result in lower fuel mileage. If you need the additional power and torque, be aware that your fuel mileage will suffer during all types of driving.

Check the fuel mileage ratings of similar type of vehicles and buy the fuel-efficient model in the size category that meets your needs.

Isuzu Challenge caps 2002 with record-breaking run

ISUZU Philippines Corp. (IPC) once again proved the unmatched fuel efficiency when its new line of power-vehicles – Trooper sports utility vehicle, Fuego pick-up and the Crosswind Asian utility vehicle – broke its previous fuel efficiency record during the recently concluded Isuzu Challenge 2002.

Lead marshall Pocholo Ramirez, renowned Philippine motoring authority with back-up team Georges, Kookie and Louie Ramirez spearheaded the fuel economy run of Isuzu Challenge 2002. It was participated in by 49 vehicles with their corresponding driver-navigator teams that travelled 89.6 kilometers from the flag-off point in Isuzu Alabang in Muntinlupa City to White Cove Resort in Nasugbu, Batangas. Of the total number of participating Isuzu vehicles, 33 were owner-driven while 16 others had media personalities.

Considered the biggest event of IPC for 2002, the objective of the economy drive was to prove the impressive fuel efficiency of the Isuzu diesel engine technology on realistic road and traffic conditions.

The Isuzu fuel economy challenge held in 2000 recorded a 25-km per liter consumption by a Fuego pick up during the 155-km run from Tabang, Bulacan to Subic in Zambales. Last Sept. 28, Dino Directo of Manila Standard along with navigator Giby Yalung of Manila Times broke the 2000 record by marking a 36.48208-km-to-a-liter consumption with only 2.456 liters of diesel consumed for the 89.6-kilometer run.

Directo and Yalung on Vehicle 45, topped the Crosswind Manual Transmission category and bagged P30,000 cash prize along with several Isuzu giveaways.

Other first placers were Carlos de Guzman and Romeo de Guzman for Fuego pick-up Manual Transmission category with 33.19748 km to a liter consumption (2.699 liters consumed); Wilfredo de Luna and Joel Papa for the Trooper Automatic Transmission category with 30.82215 km to a liter (2.907 liters) and RB Magazine's Vernon Sarne and Philippine Star's Jeff Reyes for the Crosswind Automatic Transmission with 26.01626 km to liter (3.444 liters).

The fuel consumption validation was conducted by Muntinlupa Vice Mayor Jo Jason Alcaraz, Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) Road Transport Planning Division Chief Arne Manresa, Campi secretariat head Homer Maranan and Consumer Union of the Philippines executive director Angelo Ocampo.

Second placers for each category included Angelito Cruz and Amuel Cruz for Fuego Manual Transmission category with 26.21416 km to a liter (3.418 liters); Ina Bautista and Tonichi Bautista for Trooper Automatic Transmission with 27.4931 km to a liter (3.259 liters); Manila Bulletin's Aris Ilagan and ABS-CBN's Lyle Parreño for Crosswind Manual Transmission with 30.3523 km to a liter (2.952 liters) and Ray Domingo and Virginia Domingo for Crosswind Automatic Transmission with 25 km to a liter (3.584 liters).

Third placers were Ryan Gudani and Paul Impenal for Fuego Manual Transmission category with 25.78417 km to a liter (3.475 liters); Boogie Lastimoso and DJ Sanchez for Trooper Automatic Transmission with 18.15235 km to a liter (4.936 liters); Eduardo Bulatao and Ernesto Laureano for Crosswind Manual Transmission with 28.51687 km to a liter (3.142 liters) and Jose Dizon and Oscar Nuke for Crosswind Automatic Transmission with 23.79182 km to a liter (3.766 liters).

After the eco-drive event, IPC prepared exciting games and water sports activities for participants that included Flag Capture, a challenging war game employing navigational skills, assault tactics and team spirit; jet ski competition, kayaking race, beach volleyball and mountain biking.

Five batches consisting of 10 teams competed against each other for the top Isuzu Challenge fun games premium IPC giveaway prizes. Based on cumulative points system, the Yellow Team led by IPC executive vice president Hiroshi Ishino and Manila Bulletin motoring editor Pinky Colmenares emerged as the number one team in overall standing.

Other team members included Jack Colmenares of Cruising Magazine, Aris Ilagan of Manila Bulletin, Jeff Reyes of Philippine Star, Ron delos Reyes of Auto Review, Lyle Parreno of ABS-CBN, Earl Sebastian of Today and Brian Afuang of Philippine Star.

Isuzu Challenge was in partnership with Caltex (Philippines) Inc. Participating Isuzu vehicles were fueled up with Caltex Power Diesel.

Fuel . . .

from page E3

SUVs," says Ishino. "It can significantly improve fuel efficiency since the engine maximizes the amount of intake to the cylinder to support highly efficient operations."

Efficient diesel engine

Ishino reports that in Europe the trend is going for efficient diesel engines, although there are also other researches in alternative fuel sources. Why the fuss over diesel engines? The reason could lie in the differences between gasoline engines and diesel engines:

- A gasoline engine intakes a mixture of gas and air, compresses it and ignites the mixture with a spark. A diesel engine takes in just air, compresses it and then injects fuel into the compressed air. The heat of the compressed air lights the fuel spontaneously. A gasoline engine compresses at a ratio of 8:1 to 12:1, while a diesel engine compresses at a ratio of 14:1 to as high as 25:1. The higher compression ratio leads to better combustion efficiency.
- Diesel engines use direct fuel injection. Gasoline engines generally use either carburetion or port fuel injection.

Opting for a diesel engine may help conserve fuel today, but this will also signal carmakers to use advanced technology to make cars even more energy efficient in the future. *Charles Buban*

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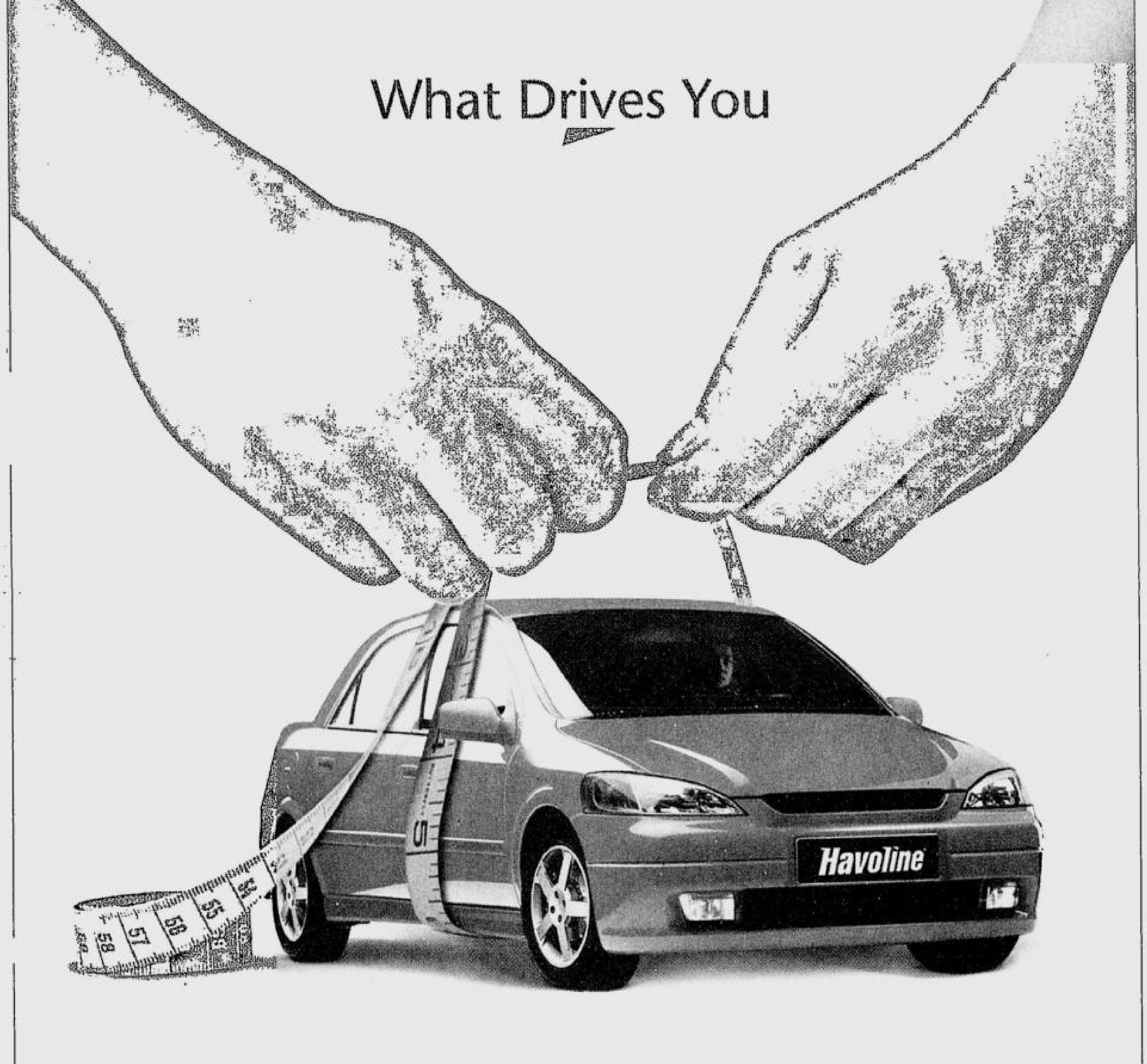

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What Drives You CALTEX

Universal Motors dominates September pickup, LCV sales

UNIVERSAL Motors Corp. topped anew the compact pickup segment in September with sales of the Nissan Frontier reaching 217 units, a record set this year, for a 46.8 percent market share based on official sales figures from the Truck Manufacturers Association.

Nissan dominated in both the 4x2, with 153 units sold for a whopping 50.2 percent share, and the 4x4 categories with 64 units and a leading 40.3 percent share.

The dominant performance of the Frontier last month was propelled by the successful nationwide Frontier Escapade promo raffle that generated a 30 percent increase in sales.

Said UMC ad and promo manager Lani de Leon: "All our other competitors were offering equally attractive packages. This only shows you that the Frontier brand has a very strong following in the country and that the pickup buyers appreciate style and substance over cut-rate discounting."

FRONTIER

Year-to-date, the Frontier outsold all other competitors with a combined total of 1,488 units or a 31.6 percent share. A far second is Ford with combined sales of the Ranger and Sport Trac reaching 1,047 units or 22.2 percent share. This is the third consecutive year that the Nissan Frontier has been the No. 1 pickup brand in the Philippines.

Buoyed by the strong sales of the Urvan and the Patrol, UMC also topped the light commercial vehicle (LCV) segment with sales of 410 units in September. It grabbed 21.53 percent of the market this month, followed by Mitsubishi with 299 units or 15.7 percent share and third is Toyota with 244 units or 12.82 percent share.

UMC assembles and distributes Nissan LCVs like the Frontier, Urvan, Terrano and Patrol and; just last year, it celebrated its 30th year of partnership with Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. of Japan.

The pluses—and minuses—of being VIP

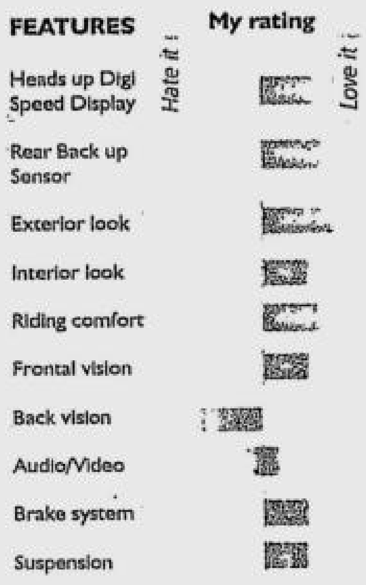
From page E8

properly fastened at the back. Or maybe we were underpowered. Suffice to say, says Nissan, that this irritating sound does not exist in the production unit. Oh, well. We'd better stop watching "Poltergeist" from now on.

Brakes are good

We think the brakes are good enough. Stepping on the brakes to the hilt while letting go of the steering wheel, we could feel stability and the powerful sound of the ABS releasing. We liked it, period. The more we drove it the more stopping became predictable.

It's big, it's "boaty." It feels like riding a boat. The shape is your typical luxury car. It doesn't look aggressive. Even if it was running fast it still looked like it was parked nonchalantly in the showroom.



It's just the sort of look accomplished executives would pick for their ride to the Ayala boardrooms on a Monday noon.

Side mirror signal lights should have been there. That would not be asking too much for a luxury car, would it? Side mirrors protrude beyond the siding which can be seen from a distance.

Wish it also had the automatic volume adjuster like many other Nissan cars in the States. As the car goes faster, the volume of the radio increases.

Inside the hood

The esthetics is good. Second, hot components are hidden. At the same time, if we changed the oil, we wouldn't accidentally touch any hot parts. The cover is plastic. It's not hot like aluminum.

Sorry folks, we didn't test the handling and the fuel consumption. We need a wider road (or circuit), and more time. Suffice to say, you go for 12 km per liter under the best conditions, and if your foot is not too heavy on the pedals.

Some of my economy fuel runner friends would claim, however, that they only did 7 km/liter for city driving, and 9 km/liter on the highways.

It is a trophy car for P1.6 million, and it drives like one. We just couldn't get over that clunking sound under the hood.

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Each week, a viewer's question related to cars and motoring gets answered on Auto Extreme. You can get a hard copy every Thursday in the Motoring section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

I'VE been driving automatic transmission cars. Given our traffic condition here, is it better to shift to Neutral or just keep it on Drive while pressing on the brake pedal?

—Jimmy Tiu

In the early days of the automatic transmission, a lot of drivers probably retained their habit of shifting to neutral when they come to a stop light while driving a car with manual transmission. Unfortunately, every time you shift from Neutral and back to Drive, you cause more wear on the moving parts because you repeatedly relax and engage the components of the drive train. But don't worry about it too much if you've been doing that. It really doesn't do much harm to your car; it just means some parts will wear out a little sooner than they should.

If you're talking about short stops, say for a red light, you can leave the car in gear, but keep one foot on the brake to prevent "creeping." To save on gas and to keep from overheating the transmission, never accelerate while the brake is engaged, while holding the vehicle on an incline or while waiting for the light to change. Just use your brake. In heavy stop-and-go traffic, especially in hot weather, some owner's manuals recommend using the No. 2 position.

But, since we do get some monster traffic jams around here, there will be occasions when shifting to Neutral is recommended. If you know you're going to be sitting still for quite some time with the engine running, always place the lever in Neutral or Park with the parking brake engaged.

If it's a prolonged stop and you stay on "Drive" with your foot on the brake, some added strain is put on your vehicle's cooling system. By shifting to Neutral with your foot on the brake, the gear is released and the transmission develops less heat. By keeping the temperature down, you protect the fluid and the internal parts of the transmission. But remember, shifting to Neutral is only recommended if you'll be sitting with the engine running for an extended period of time.

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The pluses—and minuses—of being VIP

By Tessa R. Salazar

SOPHISTICATION inside and out, that's how the 2002 Nissan Cefiro Brougham VIP is being trumpeted nowadays. The 24-valve VQ engine, claimed to have one of the best V6 designs of all time, was named by Ward's AutoWorld as one of the 10 best engines for eight consecutive years among engine models sold in the United States.

There's a mobile VCD entertainment system with overhead flip down screen for the Brougham VIP, an AV steering wheel switch that enables the driver to adjust the radio tuner and audio volume on the steering wheel. It has a rear armrest with control panel, a 6-disc CD changer at the back of the trunk for the VIP. It also has full leather seats, woodgrain finishes, instrument panel box, power seats, front center cupholder, glove box, front cupholder, rear back up sensor, digital rear distance warning system... You name it, the VIP has it.

We had our hands full for three days and got to know the Nissan Cefiro Brougham VIP better. For those who think the champ is perfect and deserves all praises, think again. The multiawarded car is not at all a fairy tale ride and drive.

Let's look at the bright side first. Nissan Cefiro's biggest advantages include its power output of 165 horses at 6,400 rpm and 19.3 kgm/4,000 of torque. It is said to carry a smooth 4-speed automatic transmission with overdrive. The OD is definitely geared for economy.

It is said that a car's transmission is like the philosophy of the company that made it. Especially for A/Ts. The automatic transmission mirrors the quality of the vehicle as it is one of the most advanced and precise technologies in cars. The Nissan VIP's transmission is very smooth, yes. We could hardly feel the changes. The change in the engine pitch was minimal. But there is room for improvement.

Brake pedal 'barrier'

To be able to shift from park to drive, we normally have to step on the brake pedal first. This safety feature, however, happens only from the park to drive shift to prevent the car from moving into reverse (the R, as you observe in A/Ts, is positioned between the P and D shifts). But when your starting point is from the neutral (N, which is still in between the P and D, or right after the R), you can shift to anywhere without stepping on the brakes. That, we believe, defeats the safety purpose so thoughtfully placed in the P-to-D shift. From neutral, we could go back to R and go forward dangerously without stepping on the brake.

Others may argue that there is no need for any stops from the neutral since when you are in N, it is assumed that your foot is already on the brake. And when in N, the argument goes on, there's no longer the danger of accidentally shifting to reverse since by then your gear has already gone past the R.

Lest we start sounding personal here, our argument applies for all A/T cars. As you observe, all of them can be shifted from N to D without stepping on the brakes.

The speedometer, aside from the usual dashboard display, appears like a hologram on the windshield of the Brougham VIP. It's placed slightly below the driver's frontal vision. The idea, of course, is for the driver to keep his or her eyes on the road even when keeping the speed in tab. That's another thoughtful safety add-on for Nissan.

No 'thub'

It doesn't have the "positive" sound of a solid "thub" when the door closes, as you hear from European cars. What we hear is a "clunk." And it's jarring.

And if you have hands full of groceries, you can't use your butt to close the VIP. The doors easily open, the closing part takes some effort. We sometimes had to do a double take. Embarrassing for the rich, we presume.

Remember the movie "Jurassic Park"? In one scene where the T-Rex is chasing the jeep, the side-view mirror says it all: "Objects in mirror are closer than they appear." T-Rex or no T-Rex that sign should appear on any side-view mirror.

Automotive technologist Alex Loinaz said that it is not safe to assume each driver knows this fact already. The sign should always be there because it always forewarns any driver. Regulation stipulates that you don't rely entirely on your mirrors for the side views. You have to literally use your head. Loinaz said that if you took a driving exam in the United States, you are expected to physically look sideways when shifting lanes.

We asked Nissan Motor Philippines Inc.'s Raymond Tribdino and he said other side mirrors are wide angled or conical. The Cefiro side mirrors feature a small discrepancy between the actual object and the visual identification. One can correctly estimate the oncoming vehicle just by looking at the image on the side mirror.

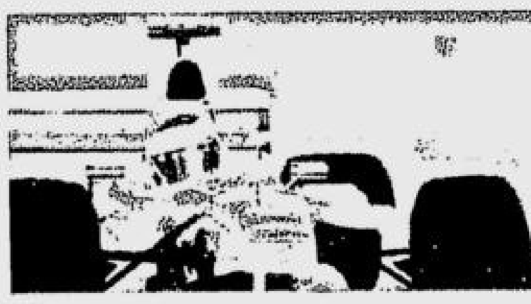
We loved the orientation of the steering wheel. It just felt good and straight. The seat height was adjustable, as we expect from luxury cars. It gave the driver an owl-like frontal vision. Unfortunately, we couldn't say the same for the rear mirror as the high back seats prevented us from seeing the back clearly.

Weird sound

It's touted as having the best multilink beam suspensions around. It has a redesigned rear suspension that provides a high level of driving comfort as it claims to improve cornering stability, wheel accuracy and sharper steering control. Vehicle vibration, in this case, has been reduced.

We don't know. Maybe it's just us, or the roads around the INQUIRER office are really that bad. We could hear an irritating "blug" below the trunk when we ran over humps or potholes especially during speeds faster than 30 kph—like a pair of castanets. We checked the trunk to look for loose connections or other improperly placed paraphernalia. There were none (Awooo—paging Casper the friendly ghost). And when we made an abrupt turn to the right and passed over humps, we could hear another clunking sound on the rightmost portion of the front. Maybe it was just a jack mount not

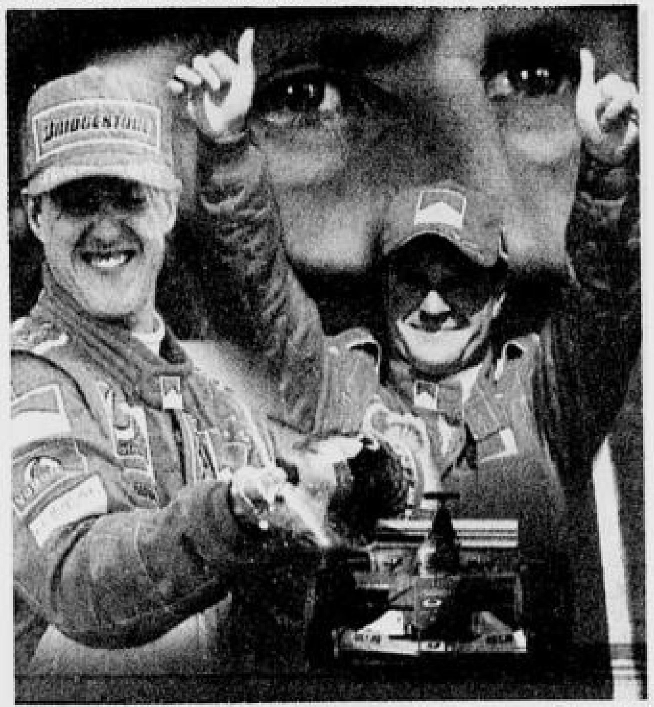
THE PLUSES/ E7



The Circuit

SHELL-FERRARI FINISHES SEASON IN ONE-TWO FASHION

Ferrari completed their 2003 season in style as Michael Schumacher led home Rubens Barrichello for another Ferrari one-two finish during last Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka.



The Ferrari pair led away from the front row and quickly began to pull away from their Williams and McLaren rivals. Schumacher had the advantage over Barrichello throughout the 53-lap race before slowing on the closing laps to win by half a second, with Raikkonen a further 23 seconds down the road.

It was the world champion's 11th win of the year, and he became the first driver ever to finish every race in a season on the podium. Ferrari's one-two also means they have scored as many points this year as the other ten teams put together. "The results talk for themselves," said Schumacher of his record-breaking season. "It was fantastic. What is amazing is we have finished all the races, which shows the quality of the job the mechanics have done. Last Sunday was a special day with two winners - we won the race and the Japanese fans saw Sato take his first points at his home GP."

"The major point is you get a good start and gap to plan your race and that was the only plan honestly," said Schumacher. "I have been very fast all weekend, and it was no surprise we pulled out the gap to the others. I now look forward to a nice winter and preparing for next year." Schumacher and Barrichello are now the most successful partnership in the history of Formula One surpassing David Coulthard and Mika Hakkinen of McLaren.

For Ferrari's technical partner, Shell, the situation at Suzuka was equally dominant and under control as always. Simon Dunning, attending the Japanese Grand Prix for Shell said, "Everything looked good last weekend, it was not too warm so the heat did not cause us too many problems. We were using the same fuel and oils we used at Indianapolis to such good effect, and as with Indy, the products were doing their job perfectly with Ferrari clear at the front."

"I am so happy for myself and Ferrari," said Barrichello. "Being part of such a family is incredible. I had a good start, but the car was bottoming out a little on the first few laps so I had to be careful. It has been a good season, and two wins in the last three races was special for me."

2002 FORMULA ONE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

(After 17 Grand Prix Races)

[illegible]	
M. SCHUMACHER	144
BARRICHELLO	77
MONTOYA	50
R. SCHUMACHER	42
COULTHARD	41
RAIKKONEN	24

[illegible]	
FERRARI	221
WILLIAMS	92
McLAREN	65
RENAULT	22
SAUBER	11
JORDAN	9

HELIX
Superior engine protection proven in the extreme.

An SUV built by world rally champions

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

WHAT a difference a year can make in terms of a car's features! Introduced to the Philippine auto market in April 2001 as the country's first Sports Safety Vehicle (SSV), the Subaru Forester was totally redesigned from tire to roof rail for 2003 and launched late last month.

What's new in the '03 Forester? Wider tracks (front and rear tread increased by 20 mm and 15 mm, respectively), higher ground clearance (from 190 mm to 195 mm), lighter curb weight (5 kg less in the automatic transmission model) and 25 mm more legroom in the rear.

Exterior-wise, a handsome new grille up front with multireflector headlights and big, recessed circular fog lamps (the latter are standard equipment now); blistered wheel arches; a stylish, hexagonal-shaped tailgate with larger glass area and trendy, wedge-shaped tail lights; bigger feet—16-inch alloy wheels shod with 215/60 R 16 Yokohama tires have replaced the predecessor's 205/70 R 15 tires and 15-inch wheels.

Neat practicality

The interior was designed with neat practicality in mind. The ergonomic dash with easy-to-read dials is set off by the metallic silver center panel. Although the Momo steering wheel of the previous model has been replaced by a 4-spoke, dimple leather-wrapped one, it is just as stout and firm in giving the driver a feel of the road. There are storage boxes and pockets galore in the cabin as well as the cargo area plus four cupholders. The AM/FM radio with in-dash single CD player has four speakers and a glass-printed antenna. The spacious center console box is equipped with a 12-volt power outlet aside from another power outlet in the cargo area. The handy retractable/removable security cover for the cargo area has been retained from last year's model.

The captain's seats with arm rests for driver and front passenger have also been retained, ditto the 60/40 split-type rear seat that can be folded down to increase cargo floor length from 961 mm to 1,716 mm. Dimple leather side trims on the comfortably upholstered seats give the interior a classy but sporty look.

New safety features

New safety features are active front passenger headrests that automatically move forward if the Forester is rear-ended, thereby cushioning the head against neck injury or whiplash; five (two in front, three in the rear) 3-point ELR seat belts with high-output pretensioners; and child seat anchors with tether anchors.

Driver and passengers are protected from collisions at any angle by new ring-shaped reinforcement frames that form a complete, rigid steel cage around the interior; front and rear bumper beams; and upgraded side impact beams in the doors. Furthermore, the aluminum hood is shock-absorbing, the module wipers are crushable, the engine and transmission are designed to slide under the floor in frontal collisions. Dual front airbags and a 4-sensor/4-channel anti-lock braking system (ABS) with electronic brake force distribution (EBD) are standard equipment. No wonder the new Forester scored the highest among SUVs tested for crashworthiness by the US Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

The Forester's safety features are reinforced by Subaru's World Rally Championship-proven horizontally opposed engine (HOE) and all-wheel-drive (AWD) technology. For the 2003 Forester, Subaru has retained the previous model's HOE 4-cylinder, 2.0-liter, SOHC 16-valve, multiport fuel-injected engine that produces 125 peak horsepower at 5,600 rpm and 184 Nm @ 3,600 max torque. This is the same powerplant that won the Hulman Trophy for setting a new world record with an average speed of 180 km/h in a 24-hour challenge at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. In the AT edition, the engine is mated to a silky smooth E-4AT transmission with a new gate-type selector.

Torque split

Subaru claims that the Forester's naturally aspirated, free-revving engine, enhanced by variable valve timing, improved aerodynamics, lighter body and low center of gravity, averages 8.5 liters per 100 km with manual transmission. Torque split (50/50 front to rear in the manual, 60/40 in the AT) ensures cornering precision on dry tarmac. On wet, muddy or rough roads, the torque is automatically and swiftly fed to the axle with the most grip, guaranteeing sure-footed traction. Efficient handling and riding comfort on- and off-road are delivered by the Forester's symmetrical AWD and retuned suspension sans the complex transfer case needed by bulky 4x4 off-roaders.

After driving the P1.36 million 2003 Forester AT with great pleasure for five days, my conclusion is that while it isn't as eye-catching as the similarly priced Toyota RAV4, which is also a CBU (completely built-up unit), the Forester is roomier, safer than other SUVs and, above all, it is the SUV built by world rally champions.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER:

Farms, not arms.